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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The guest chaplain, Bishop Christopher Coyne of Vermont, the Diocese of Burlington, will offer the prayer.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of hope and God of peace, from whom all blessings flow, may Your spirit of peace and wisdom descend upon all here present for the work of the Senate. May each of us seek to serve the common good of all, both in our great Nation and in the world at large.

And send some snow upon the ski slopes of Vermont soon.

We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Frances Kay Behm, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we have so many things going on in Washington these days, with just about everything from budgetary matters to wrapping up this session of the Congress.

I was delighted today to take a step back and, in my role as President pro tempore, introduce today's visiting Chaplain. I am always pleased to introduce the Chaplain, usually Dr. Barry Black, sometimes visiting ones, but this one is special.

He is the bishop of Burlington, which, really, the diocese covers all the State of Vermont. His name is Christopher Coyne. He knows our part of New England. He was born in Woburn, MA, and graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a B.A. in business, St. John's Seminary in Boston as a Master of Divinity, ordained a priest in June 1989, but then has fulfilled significant roles, both in the diocese where he originated and with the Vatican in Rome. And I will talk more about that at another time.

But he was elected chairman of the Committee of Communications of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

And when the bishops met, the voice you often heard was Bishop Coyne because of his credibility, his honesty, and the fact that he would give very direct answers.

And then Pope Francis named him bishop of the Diocese of Burlington, and he was installed in that January 29, 2015, and brought a new, really, wave of enthusiasm into the Catholic diocese in Vermont. He made it a point to go around the State meeting with people.

I would tell a personal story. I was at an event in Burlington on Veterans Day. I was going to be speaking there. And a jogger came up and tapped me on the shoulder. It was the bishop. He was out doing his morning run and walk. But it is something that is interrupted all the time because he will stop and talk with everybody, and they want to talk with him.

He is the kind of bishop every diocese should have: approachable, honest, good for the community. He has reached out to the Jewish community, the Protestant community. It has brought enthusiasm on both sides.

I see our distinguished majority leader on the floor who has been working hard the last few days on too many things, but I know he will get us through it, and I will do my part on the appropriations.

Mr. Leader, I just wanted to say a word about our distinguished visiting Chaplain Bishop Coyne, taking advantage of the privileges of the floor, sitting over there, and I will yield the floor and yield to you.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I thank Senator LEAHY for so many things he does, including his recent brief remarks a few minutes ago. We all know how much we are going to miss Senator LEAHY in this body and what a tower of strength and accomplishment he has been. But we will

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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have more to say about that even—tonight or tomorrow night?—tomorrow night at the retirement dinner.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Today, Mr. President, the Senate reaches an important milestone. We will confirm our 89th and 90th judicial nominees to serve lifetime appointments on the Federal bench. Starting at noon, the Senate will hold a total of four rollcall votes throughout the afternoon on the nominations of Frances Behm to the Eastern District of Michigan and Kelley Hodge to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

We are on pace to finish this year with more judges confirmed to the bench than were confirmed in the first 2 years of either of the previous two administrations. These nominees stand out not just in their numbers but also in their groundbreaking diversity. Almost 50 percent of the judges we have confirmed are women of color—50 percent. That has never happened before, and I am confident that a more diverse bench will go a long way in cultivating trust in our courts and in our democracy.

Just as important, once we confirm the nominations of Tamika Montgomery-Reeves and Dana Douglas very soon, the Senate will also have confirmed a total of 11 Black women to serve as appellate judges, by far the most ever under any single President.

Before President Biden, only 8 such nominees had been confirmed in total, and now, in our first 2 years, we are already on the brink of confirming 11.

Today, our Federal judiciary is far more balanced, far more diverse, and far more experienced than the one our country had 2 years ago. It is something we are very proud of. You can rest assured, Mr. President, that Senate Democrats are going to maintain this priority on judges as the 118th Congress begins next year.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on government funding, off the floor, negotiations continue between both parties on charting a path toward fully funding the government for the next fiscal year. I spent much of the day yesterday going from one meeting to the next, sitting down first with Leader McCONNELL and his team and then with Speaker PELOSI and her team, and I stayed on the phone throughout the evening as Senators worked to bridge the gap on funding.

We are working very hard on getting something done before the deadline, but there is a lot of negotiating left to do. Both sides understand that fully funding the government is extremely important and anything less risks harm to our troops and the Federal Government's ability to serve the public. We don't want to see that outcome so both sides must remain at the table and continue working.

Tomorrow, Senators will attend a classified briefing on the latest developments on the war in Ukraine. I hope it sinks in for all Members in attend-

ance just how critical U.S. aid has been, not just for our allies but for our own protection. I hope it sinks in that this is one of the most important reasons why we must reach an agreement.

It is not an easy process, but it is supremely important nonetheless. For the well-being of our troops, for the preservation of our national security, and for the tens of millions of Americans who look to the Federal Government for a wide range of basic services, Democrats and Republicans must work together to fully fund the Federal Government.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. President, now on CHIPS and Science, today, President Biden will be in Arizona to visit the construction site for what will become one of the largest chip manufacturing plants in America. What was originally announced to be a \$12 billion investment will now be a \$40 billion project, with the first chip fab set to open a year from now.

This is one of the highly visible examples of how the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act is already paying dividends for the economy, for job creators, and for American workers. It is a good sign for a new age of chip manufacturing in this country.

We used to lead the world in making microchips, and thanks to the CHIPS and Science Act, we are already seeing the types of investments that will make America a major hub—the major hub, hopefully—for chip manufacturing once again.

The construction site that President Biden visits today is just one example of some very exciting activity happening all across the country. In my home State of New York, Micron has pledged up to \$100 billion over the next two decades to build state-of-the-art semiconductor fabs in New York. Another major company, GlobalFoundries, has announced they will build a second fab in the Albany region of Upstate New York.

Of course, the benefits extend across America. We are seeing chipmakers announce multibillion-dollar investments in States ranging from Ohio to Colorado, to Texas, to Arizona—the Arizona one MARK KELLY did a great job of championing—to Idaho. In nearly all cases, executives have explicitly cited the passage of CHIPS and Science as a major factor in their decision to build big in America.

Though these many investments range in size and type, the bottom line on CHIPS and Science is this: more American jobs, increased American manufacturing, a stronger American economy in the long run. This bill is about innovating and building the future in the United States, not in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party.

As always, I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who pushed this bill over the finish line. We are already reaping the immense benefits, and there will be many more to come.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Mr. President, before I conclude, I want to acknowledge that this is a solemn and special day here at the Capitol. Later this morning, congressional leadership will gather to award the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of the brave men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department who defended the Capitol on January 6.

On that day, democracy faced maximum danger. These heroes responded with maximum valor, and all of us in the Senate and across the Capitol Complex are forever—forever—in their debt.

I will have more to say when I speak this morning at the Rotunda, but for now, I want to say thank you to Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUNT, the chair and ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee, who worked together on legislation to award the gold medal to these highly worthy public servants. This award would not be possible without the work of Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUNT, and I commend them for their work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, well, here we are, again, into the month of December with crucial business unfinished. Republicans spent months urging the Democratic majority not to neglect this year's National Defense Authorization Act, not to leave our Armed Forces to the last minute.

Five months ago, I called on our colleagues to process the Defense bill as soon as possible; but, instead, the majority has prioritized not just gigantic partisan spending sprees, but also a parade of mid-level nominations.

The Democratic leader didn't even bring a Senate NDAA to the floor, forcing Senators REED and INHOFE to conduct an informal conference with the House with a weakened hand. When the Republicans controlled the government, we put our servicemembers first.

In 2017, the Senate passed our version of NDAA in September, and we had voice-voted the conference report by Thanksgiving. In 2018, the Republican Senate was completely finished with NDAA by early August. But on Democrats' watch, the Senate's schedule has not matched the Nation's needs. We have spent time on less important matters while both the authorization and funding for our servicemembers have languished until the eleventh hour.

Even now—even now—House and Senate Democrats are still obstructing

efforts to close out the NDAA by trying to jam in unrelated items with no relationship whatsoever to defense. We are talking about a grab bag of miscellaneous pet priorities—like making our financial system more sympathetic to illegal drugs or the phony partisan-permitting reform in-name-only language that has already failed to pass the Senate earlier this year.

If Democrats wanted these controversial items so badly, they had 2 years to move them across the floor. Heck, they could have scheduled those matters for votes this week. But, no, we are doing more mid-level nominations while Democrats keep half-threatening to take our Armed Forces hostage over these extraneous matters.

So there is an old saying that goes “Poor planning on your part does not necessitate an emergency on the part of other people.” The Democrats’ failure to plan ahead for unrelated liberal pet priorities should not be creating uncertainty and confusion for the brave servicemembers who keep us safe.

My colleagues across the aisle need to cut their unrelated hostage-taking and put a bipartisan NDAA on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BLUNT

Mr. President, now, on another matter, my friend and our distinguished colleague ROY BLUNT is one of us whose political careers began at the most local level. As a 20-something-year-old county clerk, ROY’s career in government required real hands-on public service right from the beginning. Fortunately, hard work and rolled-up sleeves weren’t foreign concepts for ROY. After all, before our friend became the first in his family to finish college, he grew up on a dairy farm.

And for decades now, that doggedness and persistence have served ROY’s neighbors exceptionally well. Green County’s young clerk, a former high school history teacher, fell short in his first campaign for higher statewide office. But a few years later, he handily became the first Republican Secretary of State Missouri had seen in half a century. After 8 years there and then 4 as a university president, ROY was already a seasoned veteran, firing on all cylinders, when he arrives in the House of Representatives in 1997.

Little wonder that, after just three terms, ROY became the newest representative to be voted House majority whip in 80 years. So, clearly, ROY had a big-time reputation for getting things done before he moved across the rotunda here to the Senate. When he won his election in 2010, all his colleagues knew our team was getting an all-star.

And, sure enough, in 6 years from freshman status to House leadership, he set a modern land speed record on that side of the Capitol. Then over here, ROY broke the sound barrier. He joined our conference’s leadership team 1 year after he became a Senator.

The record of accomplishments ROY has racked up reflects the fusion of

focus, detail-mindedness, and a rare knack for broader strategy and management. Time after time, Senator BLUNT has thrown himself into the weeds of policy, achieved total fluency in the details, and then climbed back up to 30,000 feet to make a strategic decision that would actually move the ball down the field.

Case in point: I believe ROY is the only Rules Committee chair in history to have actually served as his State’s top elections official. He knows the ins and outs of voting issues as well as anyone. He knows that the Federal role in our elections is both important but also very limited. He understands the big picture, the fine details, and everything in between.

The leaders of Rules also have huge ceremonial duties as the Capitol organizes the Presidential Inauguration every 4 years.

I have it on good authority that in both 2017 and 2021, when ROY headed up the ceremonies, our resident history buff handwrote every word of his speeches himself, longhand—names, dates, historical references, quotations, all straight from his pen, and it all passed his team’s careful fact-checking without a drop of red ink.

Now, those ceremonial duties bear mentioning, in part because taking center stage is such a departure from the way ROY normally tackles his business. Working methodically and diligently, building consensus behind the scenes, Missouri’s senior Senator has steered hundreds of millions of dollars toward improving transportation infrastructure at the crossroads of the American heartland.

He has reached across the aisle repeatedly to improve workforce development for American veterans. He has worked tirelessly to protect the integrity of our election systems. And perhaps most important of all, ROY has had a direct, generational impact on the future of cutting-edge American medicine. He spent years—years—building the transformational new consensus that became the Excellence in Mental Health Act.

His work to equip researchers to tackle rare diseases helped pour the foundation for the 21st Century Cures Act. At the National Institutes of Health, ROY BLUNT’s name is literally on the door of the signature initiative he championed to help the millions of Americans affected by dementia.

Time and time again, our capable and trusted colleague has wound up in the middle of high-stakes, high-profile work; yet ROY remains the same humble and approachable Show-Me Stater who first got into this business to help his neighbors.

These are qualities ROY shares with fellow distinguished Missourians who preceded him. Ever the historian, our colleague has regaled guests with the history of his Senate office suite, which once belonged to Harry Truman both as a Senator and even including Truman’s brief spell as Vice President.

Apparently, Truman came back personally to collect his things and finish moving out after he had already become the Commander in Chief.

But history isn’t the only subject where this former teacher still administers pop quizzes. ROY’s staff tell fondly how their boss is liable to walk into their offices at any time and simply inquire: So, what do you know? That one signature query captures ROY so well: the high standards, the curiosity, the restless energy to find the next big project that will make a difference. These qualities have made ROY one of the best the Senate has ever had at sniffing out common ground and delivering outcomes.

But legislation isn’t the only area where our friend’s nose-to-the-grindstone spirit pays dividends. For example, I am not sure what ROY has planned for his next chapter, but given his penchant for spending Saturdays walking the aisles at Home Depot and knocking out home improvement projects, I give him about 2 weeks before there won’t be one leaky faucet or rusted hinge within a three-mile radius of ROY and Abby’s place.

We know our friend much too well to predict that he will follow 14 general election victories by kicking back and taking it easy.

But, I suspect, ROY sure won’t mind the extra time with Abby and seeing more of Matt, Amy, Andrew, Charlie, and his grandkids as well.

So on behalf of all his friends here in the Senate and on behalf of the country, I thank my friend, the senior Senator from Missouri, for his years of outstanding service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to thank my good friend Senator McCONNELL for his comments this morning, and I have reserved some time this afternoon for what would be my official farewell address in the Senate.

But as it relates to our leader, Mr. McCONNELL, he and I were whips—when I was a whip in the House, he was a whip in the Senate. We met every week. We have had a long and close relationship. I am grateful for his advice, his friendship, and his comments today. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we will be losing several members to retirement at the end of this year, including my friend ROY BLUNT.

ROY and I have served together for the majority of my time in the Senate, and I also served with him for several years in the House of Representatives.

We started in the House at the same time, and we became friends right away. Our wives have become friends as well through the years, and it has been a joy over the years to host ROY and Abby in South Dakota, along with their son Charlie, and to visit them in Missouri. On a personal level, I am going to miss ROY a lot, and the Senate

as an institution is going to miss ROY as well.

ROY is someone who aspires to be involved in doing the hard things. And throughout his congressional career, he has put himself forward for positions where he can make a difference.

He became chief deputy whip just 2 years after becoming a member of the House, and he was elected majority whip just 4 years later, winning the position earlier in his career than any member in Congress in eight decades.

It has been a similar story in the Senate where ROY was elected vice chairman of the Republican Conference in his first year. In 2019, he became chairman of the Republican policy committee which plays an important role in providing members and staff with the resources they need on the issues. And he has done that while serving as the top Republican on the Senate Rules Committee.

ROY has always been committed to doing the big things, but he is also very solutions-oriented and very clear-eyed and practical about what is achievable in a place where it is hard to get things done.

He has a saying: Never announce publicly what you won't vote for. What he means by that is that you shouldn't back yourself into a position where you can't support a good compromise. While it is not always possible to get everything you want, you shouldn't let that stop you from doing as much good as you can.

ROY has done a lot of good during his time in Congress, and one of his lasting legacies will be the bipartisan achievements in the healthcare space, including his efforts to help create and expand the certified community behavioral health clinics program to improve access to mental health care and championing medical research. The facility housing the NIH's Center for Alzheimer's and Related Dementias is actually named after ROY in honor of his longtime work to support dementia research. And, of course, no mention of ROY's legacy would be complete without mentioning his stalwart advocacy for the people of Missouri.

I am going to miss ROY, and the Senate will miss ROY, but I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve together, and I am happy he will have more time to spend with Abby and his children and grandchildren.

ROY has made a lasting impact here in the Senate, and I look forward to seeing his next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. President, shortly before Thanksgiving, one of great icons of the Senate, Senator JIM INHOFE, gave his farewell speech, and I want to take the time today to honor his service.

As I said, JIM is one of the icons of the Senate, and it is difficult to imagine things here without him. Over his 28-year career, he has built an incredible legacy, particularly when it comes to building up our military and developing our relationships in Africa.

One of the first trips I took when I got to the Senate was a trip with JIM to Iraq and Germany to meet with some of our troops and to talk to our military leadership. I would like to think I am a pretty energetic guy, but I was left in awe by JIM INHOFE. He was like the Energizer Bunny. He left people half his age in the dust.

I don't know anybody who works harder than JIM. He leads by example, and his legislative achievements are a tribute to his tireless service.

Everyone knows that JIM INHOFE is an accomplished legislator, but not everybody knows that JIM is also an accomplished pilot. He has over 11,000 flight hours. I mentioned that he is like the Energizer Bunny, and he has flown an airplane around the world. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to be his passenger once as we flew around Oklahoma, and it remains one of the best flights I have ever taken.

While I deeply admire JIM's work ethic and his legislative achievements and his piloting prowess, I might add, the thing I appreciate the most about JIM INHOFE is that he is a man of deep and profound faith. I have been blessed to gather with him and other Senators for Bible study for a number of years now, and I don't think he has ever missed a session.

When I think about JIM, I think about the verse in I Peter that says, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you." JIM INHOFE is always ready to give that defense.

JIM isn't a man who pays lip service to his faith; he models it and he lives it. In word and deed, he is a great ambassador for his Savior, and I will miss his presence and his witness.

While I will miss JIM being in the Senate, I am glad he and his beloved wife Kay will now have more time to spend together with their children and their grandchildren, and I wish him the very best for retirement. He has more than earned some time off.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Before the Senator leaves, the Bible study that he has referenced is one that JIM and I and a handful of other Democrats and Republicans join in every Thursday when we are in session, with Barry Black, the Chaplain of the Senate, and it has been hosted literally in the hideaway of JIM INHOFE. So it is a home game for him, but it is a home game for Democrats and Republicans just to share some time together in prayer and faith and some of the challenges we face.

Some people across the country watch the news all the time—you would think we hate each other here and we never want to work together, never want to get anything done. Thanks in no small part to JIM INHOFE's hospitality and participation and example, that is not the case.

So I just want to add my comments as well.

He is the two-time chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee and a great partner with me in reducing emissions from buses and diesel engines and stuff like that. He is the lead Republican on the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. So I just want to say there are some good environmentalists in Oklahoma, and on all the issues we have dealt with, JIM INHOFE has been one of those.

Mr. THUNE. Would the Senator from Delaware yield for just a minute?

Mr. CARPER. Sure.

Mr. THUNE. I just want to thank you for what you have said about Senator INHOFE and about our Bible study.

I would say to all of our colleagues that of all the time we spend here each and every week, that particular hour is arguably the most impactful, and I always encourage other of our colleagues to join us. We have been meeting, as Senator TOM CARPER mentioned, in Senator INHOFE's office now for many, many years and have been very blessed by his leadership not only here in the Senate but his witness with regard to his faith.

Mr. CARPER. People ask me: What do you like most about being in the Senate? What do you like most about public service? I like helping people. When they ask me more specifically what gives me joy in the Senate, it is that Thursday, it is that half an hour we spend together just about every Thursday. I am always pleased to be there with our colleagues—sometimes even work out in the gym together.

TRIBUTE TO JIM GARDNER

Mr. President, now to talk about another Jim—and I have been joined by CHRIS, CHRIS COONS, our Senator from the State of Delaware, and I am delighted to join Senator COONS and also our colleague in the House. We only have one congressional seat in the House, and it is filled by LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. We are all going to be talking—not today here on the floor—Senator COONS and I will be, but LISA will be talking over in the House about Jim Gardner.

Who is Jim Gardner? He is an icon. That is a word you hear a whole lot, but he is truly an icon. He is signing off the air after 40 years of delivering the news for WPVI-6abc, which really is the dominant, if you will, television station in the whole Delaware Valley, including Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania, parts of Maryland, and parts of New Jersey as well.

Jim has been delivering the news not just for that station, but he has been delivering the news for all of us, and one of the reasons why that station has enjoyed incredible ratings is in no small part because of his presence at the station. He has been a steady voice for viewers in the region, anchoring the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts for as long as I can remember. Throughout that time, he earned the respect and he earned the trust of millions of viewers

who invited him into their homes on their televisions every night, including our home in Delaware.

Jim's career was born before he even graduated college. He was attending Columbia University in the late 1960s. Our country was in turmoil over race and the Vietnam war—a war in which I served. His first ever report was on the historic student riots on campus. That gave him his first taste of broadcast journalism.

He went on to report for a radio station—I think it was WINS Radio—and then another station called WFAS and then WKBW-TV in New York City before making his way down south to join us in the Delaware Valley in 1976, when he joined WPVI-TV as a reporter and as anchor for “Action News at Noon.”

Just shy of 1 year later, he became the anchor of the 6 o'clock news and the 11 o'clock broadcast, where he has been every night—every night—since, helping guide viewers through noteworthy events both globally and locally.

Over the years, Jim's assignments included interviews. He has interviewed a lot of Presidents and folks who maybe aspire to be President. I don't. Among those are Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and a scrappy kid from Scranton who ended up as a Senator from Delaware, Joe Biden, who is now our President.

Throughout the years, Jim has interviewed Philadelphia mayors—I can't count all the ones—from Frank Rizzo to Jim Kenney, and he has covered I think 21 political conventions. Think about that—21 political conventions. There is a special place in Heaven for Jim Gardner for doing that, I will tell you.

Locally, Jim was the narrating voice of our 2008 Phillies and 2018 Eagles world championship parades, and those teams were really good this year as well. The Phillies made it all the way to the World Series, and the Eagles are knocking on the door to do something special in the NFL playoffs later this year.

As the “Action News” opening song says “Move closer to your world,” he has also traveled abroad to help us understand some of the biggest stories in history—not just in Delaware, not just in the Delaware Valley, but across the world. He reported from the Vatican to cover the death of, for example, Pope Paul VI. He traveled to Germany to cover the return of American hostages from Iran. He reported from Russia and Lithuania after the fall of the Soviet Union. He covered the Oslo Accords from Israel and from the West Bank. He traveled to Cuba to cover Pope John Paul II and then went to Argentina to report on the life of Pope Francis.

Perhaps what has allowed Jim to hold the trust of his viewers while engaging his audience night after night is that no matter where he has traveled—no matter where he has traveled—he

understands that what matters to his viewers most can be found right in our own backyards, community events, at school board and town council meetings, houses of worship, and by talking to our neighbors.

It is with great pleasure that we rise on behalf of Delaware's congressional delegation to honor the exemplary career of Jim Gardner.

I want to say, Jim, to you and your family, congratulations on a job well done. We want to convey our thanks to your wife Amy—there is a special place in Heaven for her and for our spouses as well—and to your four children for sharing their dad with us and the people of our region of America. Delaware Valley is a better place because of you. God bless. Godspeed.

With that, I am pleased to yield to my wingman from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I join my colleague from our home State of Delaware in ensuring that Jim Gardner's four decades of leadership in our community, in our local news, and in laying down a marker for what it means to be a real journalist, a trusted and loyal and important part of community leadership—that his service will be remembered and recognized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Jim Gardner, as my colleague laid out in great detail, born and raised in New York City, turned on to journalism as a student at Columbia University by reporting on the historic Columbia riots in 1968 and then began his remarkable run with WPVI-TV Philadelphia on June 1, 1976.

I have had the honor of being in the newsroom and talking with Jim as he has prepared for a broadcast, of getting a sense of just how good and balanced and thoughtful a journalistic leader he is.

For all of us, it is a real loss that, four decades later, Jim has anchored his last regularly scheduled 11 p.m. broadcast. He is still anchoring the 6 p.m. news.

I will tell you, Jim, my wife Annie and I love watching you. You have given us a sense of continuity, of community, and of character in our local news, unmatched in so many other communities around our country. You are a genuine treasure, a jewel of the Delaware Valley, and we will miss you deeply. You have interviewed Popes and Presidents, local elected officials and international leaders. You have contributed to our understanding of our place in the world and brought us closer together.

I just wanted to say to you personally, congratulations on your retirement. I know that you will get to spend more time with Josh, Jenn, Emily, and Jesse, and your grandson Henry.

Thank you to Amy.

As my colleague and friend TOM CARPER said, it is our spouses who often experience the highs and the lows of our public service, and I know your family has supported you through this remarkable work.

It would be impossible to list all the stories that you reported on or contributed to, but know, Jim, that you have left a lasting legacy in the hearts of the millions of people who have watched you over decades and felt that they were brought a little bit closer to their world.

Thank you, and we look forward to recognizing you in the RECORD of the United States Senate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Michigan are trying to work through some differences on a potential unanimous consent request, but I have asked them if I might make a few remarks if they are not quite ready yet, and they have graciously allowed me to do so.

What I want to talk about is—it is December 6. It is 19 days until Christmas, and the 117th Congress is quickly coming to a close, but there is a lot of work that needs to be done in the meantime—first, the National Defense Authorization Act, which I hope will be the next order of business.

You know, when people ask me, “What are your priorities when it comes to representing the State of Texas in the U.S. Senate?” I say: Well, it is clear there is one priority, and that is the strength and security and safety of our Nation and our way of life—to preserve and protect the peace and to protect the freedom of all Americans.

The way we do that is through the National Defense Authorization Act. It is, I believe, the most important piece of legislation that we consider each year, among other important pieces of legislation. This is how we support our troops, how we support our military families in an all-volunteer military, how we maintain our military bases, how we modernize our weapons systems and airframes and invest in the next generation of weapons.

I believe what Ronald Reagan said—that we maintain peace through strength—and when we don't make our national defense a priority, when we neglect the most important responsibilities we have here, it sends the wrong message to our adversaries and those who would take advantage of a power vacuum left by an America that refuses to lead.

The National Defense Authorization Act is how we strengthen our relationships with old allies and forge strong partnerships with new ones. For example, as a result of the invasion of

Ukraine by Vladimir Putin, now Finland and Sweden have said they want to become part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which is certainly not what Mr. Putin contemplated when he said he was invading Ukraine because he didn't want a potential NATO member on his border. Well, as a result of his blundering invasion and wrongful invasion of Ukraine, he is now going to have Finland as a NATO partner on his border with some, I believe, roughly, 800 miles of common border.

We know that this is an increasingly challenging global threat landscape, and we have to do everything we can to make sure our troops have the training and the equipment and the resources needed to counter adversaries of today and tomorrow.

Given the state of the world, preserving our military readiness has never been more important. China and Russia have, obviously, grown more aggressive in their efforts to disrupt the global order. North Korea continues to threaten the United States and our allies with its nuclear capabilities. Iran, which is the largest state sponsor of terrorism, continues to threaten democracies in the Middle East, including our ally in Israel, and to threaten not only regional conflict but something worse.

This is a fragile time for global peace and security, and a strong National Defense Authorization Act is the principal way that we supply our military with the resources and certainty needed for our commanders to plan for the future.

But this legislation is about much more than maintaining a strong national defense. It is about empowering and supporting the men and women behind it. America's servicemembers are volunteers, and they have made a commitment not everyone is willing to make in joining the ranks of America's heroes who have defended our country throughout our Nation's history. They make sacrifices each and every day in order to keep our families safe and our Nation at peace, and we owe it to them to give them the support that they need. That includes not only the training, technology, and equipment they need to do their jobs but also the pay and benefits that their families depend on.

In short, a strong National Defense Authorization Act is critical to the success of our servicemembers, their families, American security, and, indeed, world peace. We simply can't neglect this important responsibility or delay it any longer. I think the majority leader, the Senator from New York, has already delayed it to the point that here we are, backed up against Christmas, with no time to spare. Congress needs to pass this annual Defense authorization bill ASAP—as soon as possible. I hear the House is planning to take up the Defense Authorization Act this week, and I hope that the Senate will follow in short order.

For the past 61 years in a row—61 years—Congress has managed to overcome partisan differences and pass this legislation. I hope that will continue this year, but I am becoming more and more concerned given the crunch that we are experiencing here 19 days before Christmas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, once we pass the Defense authorization bill, which I hope we will do, we have one other big item on the "to do" list, and that is government funding.

You may ask: How in the world did we get here? Ordinarily, in what we sometimes refer to as "regular order" around here, the Appropriations Committee takes up and passes at the committee level 12 appropriations bills. These fund the entire government, from the Defense Department to Transportation, to Foreign Affairs, to—well, everything that the Federal Government does, which is our border security and the like.

What has happened is that that system has broken down and empowered not rank-and-file members of the Appropriations Committee or even rank-and-file Members of the Senate or Congress. What is happening is that this bill is being negotiated, probably on the order of almost \$1.7 trillion, behind closed doors by the leadership, and we will then be presented with a fait accompli. In other words, we will have two choices: to vote up or down on the annual appropriations bill. It is a ridiculous and embarrassing way to do business around here. It is certainly not transparent. It certainly doesn't provide the American people with the information they need in order to decide whether they think we are on the right track or the wrong track.

So here we are, more than 2 months into the fiscal year, and last year's business is still outstanding. Our Democratic colleagues hold the majority in the House and the Senate, as well as the White House. Despite their unilateral authority to set the schedule, they have failed in some of our most basic responsibilities, and that is to advance appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year.

In September, they punted the funding deadline to December the 16th, which is just 10 days away. And it doesn't sound like much progress has been made. There is no agreement, even on a top-line number, which is the first step for coming up with a funding agreement.

To make matters worse, Democrats are still pushing for dramatic increases in nondefense domestic spending. Typically, these agreements include some sort of parity between defense and nondefense spending, but the spending habits of the last 2 years by the Democratic majority along party lines have been anything but typical.

First of all, our Democratic colleagues stole the taxpayer credit card and went on not one but two spending sprees. The first was called the Amer-

ican Rescue Plan, which included a long list of progressive social policies. That bill cost taxpayers \$1.9 trillion—party-line vote, borrowed money that somebody is going to have to pay off someday.

A few months ago, our colleagues went on a second spending spree with something called the Inflation Reduction Act, which I sometimes called the "Inflation Nonreduction Act" because it won't reduce inflation anytime soon. In fact, it includes nearly half a trillion dollars in new spending.

Anybody who has followed what you do when inflation is raging, as it is now, knows there are usually two components: one is the Federal Reserve that controls monetary policy; in other words, interest rates. They can slow down the economy. They can try to take a shot at inflation by slowing down the economy and raising interest rates, but of course that means the money we have to pay to service the debt that we are incurring here just gets bigger and bigger.

There is a second component, too, when it comes to tackling inflation, and that is the fiscal side, the spending. The reason why we still see inflation at a 40-year high is because our Democratic colleagues, on top of all the spending we had to do on COVID-19 on a bipartisan basis, have engaged in a radical spending spree of roughly \$2½ trillion. That has exacerbated the fire in inflation. Many people who are financially well-off have not experienced much beyond an inconvenience, but to working families who live paycheck to paycheck, the prices they pay not only at the pump but at the grocery store for housing and everything else have gone through the roof. They are the ones hurting as a result of this fiscal irresponsibility.

So after the last 2 years, our Democratic colleagues have spent trillions of dollars on their domestic priorities, and they made no push for parity with defense spending. They didn't couple \$128 billion for K-12 schools with new investments in research and development. They didn't mirror the \$86 billion bailout for labor unions with funding for next-generation aircraft or weapons. They didn't pair the \$80 billion for a supersized IRS with funding to support our troops and their families. They didn't match the \$40 billion for transportation projects with funding for infrastructure updates at our military installations. And they certainly didn't couple the extensive unemployment benefits that they provided with pay raises for servicemembers. So there has been no question of parity between defense and nondefense spending these last 2 years.

They spent trillions of dollars on domestic priorities without even entertaining the idea of more support for our national security. Now they cannot widen that gap any further. We shouldn't stand for it. And we can't shortchange America's military in

order to maintain this illusion of parity. And it is nothing more than an illusion after this spending spree that our Democratic colleagues have been on for the last 2 years.

I hope, finding ourselves where we are, that our colleagues are able to make some progress in the coming days and avoid another continuing resolution.

Last week, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin wrote to congressional leaders stressing the importance of a full-year government funding bill. He emphasized the negative impact of short-term funding on procurement, research and development, troop training, infrastructure projects, recruitment, and so much more. He didn't mince words in saying how critical it is to pass a regular appropriations bill, saying:

Failure to do so will result in significant harm to our people and our programs and would cause harm to our national security and our competitiveness.

This is where we find ourselves, and it is not an accident. This is a conscious design by the congressional leaders of the Democratic Party in the House and the Senate, who have said we are not going to have a regular appropriations process that is predictable and done on time and in a way that is transparent and allows the American people and rank-and-file Members of the Congress to participate. Instead, they have said we are going to push it all to the end of the year, backstop it against Christmas and the new Congress, and we are going to tell congressional Members you have those two choices: You can vote up or vote down. But they know that we have a responsibility to fund our military, we have a responsibility to fund our border security efforts, and so much more.

So it is unlikely, highly unlikely, that Congress will fail to pass an appropriations bill and turn the lights out here in Washington, DC, and shut down the government. Our congressional leaders know that, but they have been reckless in the way they have handled this to the point now where we have very few choices.

This is not what responsible governing looks like. Our Democratic colleagues have left the most fundamental tasks of the government to the very last moment.

The Defense authorization bill and the government funding bills are not a surprise. These are necessary to complete each and every year, and the deadlines arrive like clockwork. But somehow our colleagues, the leadership in the House and the Senate, our Democratic colleagues, have gotten us here by design.

They understand how this place works, and they like the fact that they maintain bulk control over \$1.7 trillion in spending, and they use the National Defense Authorization Act to try to jam through other special interest goodies because they realize that with so few moving vehicles across the floor

of the U.S. Congress this late in the year, that that is what will happen.

When you have a must-pass bill, people will look for every opportunity to put in their special project because they know that will be carried along, along with this must-pass legislation.

Inflation remains at a 40-year high, communities across the country are dealing with increases in violent crime, and the crisis at the border is growing more challenging by the day. I can't help but to believe that the American people deserve better than this, and I hope the next few weeks will bring more productivity than the last few months have. And I hope that once we put the business of our national security and appropriating for the support of the Federal Government behind us, hopefully sooner rather than later, we won't repeat this same mistake year after year after year.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH FRAWLEY BAGLEY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a dedicated and well-qualified individual who has been nominated by President Biden to fill an increasingly important role. That person is Elizabeth Bagley, who has been nominated to be the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil.

Elizabeth Bagley has been involved in public service for decades. Twenty-eight years ago, as a matter of fact, she appeared before the U.S. Senate, then being considered as President Clinton's nominee to be Ambassador to Portugal. She went on to serve in that role from 1994 to 1997, which was a period of growth and positive development in this important bilateral relationship.

For the service in Portugal, she received distinguished awards from the Portuguese Navy and Air Force as well as the Grand Cross of Prince Henry the Navigator, which is the President of Portugal's highest civilian commendation.

She is also the recipient of the Global Democracy Award from the International Women's Democracy Center, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the 2013 Secretary of State's Distinguished Honor Award.

In 2013, she served as Alternative Representative of the United States to the United Nations, and prior to that was the first Special Representative to the Secretary of State for Global Partnerships.

In her years of diplomatic service, she has also worked as a senior adviser to Secretaries Kerry, Clinton, and the late Madeleine Albright.

President Biden has nominated her to an especially critical role, and that

is to be our Nation's Ambassador to Brazil—the largest economy in South America, a country that is going through dramatic transitions right now. As a matter of fact, Brazil will be inaugurating its new President at the beginning of January. And I believe—frankly, it has been an embarrassment that we have gone almost 2 years without an Ambassador to Brazil—I believe it is critically important that Ambassador Bagley be in Brasilia, having been presented her credentials in time for the inauguration of the new Brazilian President.

As a matter of fact, in terms of north-south relations, our relations with Brazil are as critical as virtually any nation in the Southern Hemisphere. We have got lots and lots of work to do on this important relationship, and it is important that we move forward.

Originally, I was going to come down and ask UC to both have Elizabeth Bagley discharged from committee and also confirmed now on the floor. Working with my Republican friends, I appreciate the fact that I believe they are going to allow us to move forward on the discharge from committee but not move forward on Ms. Bagley's confirmation as Ambassador. I know there may be some holds on all north-south Ambassadors at this point, but I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. This is a talented, well-suited, appropriately experienced individual. This relationship between the United States and Brazil is absolutely critical now perhaps more than ever, and I hope that we can find some level of accommodation to move past the action we take today and make sure that Elizabeth Bagley is confirmed as our country's Ambassador to Brazil so that she can be in Brasilia by the time the new administration in Brazil comes into power in early January under President Lula.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to support Elizabeth Bagley's nomination to serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Elizabeth brings to this position significant experience in diplomacy, law, and foreign affairs. Over the course of her incredible career, she has served our country as Ambassador to Portugal, as a senior adviser to multiple Secretaries of State, and as congressional liaison to the Helsinki Accords and the Camp David Treaties.

At the State Department, she was the first person to serve as the Special Representative for Global Partnerships, an office which worked to advance foreign policy priorities through private sector engagement. She has a background in international law and shared that expertise with the students at Georgetown University Law Center. Through her years advising key leaders like Madeleine Albright, Hillary Clinton, and John Kerry, Elizabeth gained the experience needed to represent our country on the world stage.

We all know about the key role Ambassadors play in diplomacy. U.S. and broader democratic efforts suffer when we do not have an Ambassador in place—someone to officially represent the U.S. Government, to lead our Foreign Service Officers abroad, and to strengthen diplomatic ties with other nations.

This is particularly true of Brazil, a country that is home to a U.S. Embassy, four consulates, a branch office, and decades of partnership. More than 40,000 students, teachers, and professionals have participated in exchanges between the United States and Brazil. The United States is Brazil's second largest trading partner, and our governments and law enforcement agencies work closely together to combat money laundering, arms trafficking, and human trafficking.

To manage the many challenges facing the world today—food shortages from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, rising temperatures and extreme weather events, continuing recovery from the pandemic, and China's growing influence around the world, we need capable Ambassadors in place to share democratic values and secure America's place in the world. Time and time again, Elizabeth Bagley has proven herself to be the kind of leader who is up for the task.

Don't take it just from me. Elizabeth has been awarded the Secretary of State's Distinguished Honor Award, given for those who have made significant contributions to the Agency's mission, and the Portuguese Government has conferred upon her the Grand Cross of Prince Henry the Navigator, Portugal's highest civilian honor.

I am proud to say I will be voting for Elizabeth Bagley as Ambassador to Brazil, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

NOMINATION DISCHARGED AND PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Mr. WARNER. So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of PN1691, Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, to be Ambassador of the United States to Brazil, and that the nomination be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor and, again, hope that we can move on this ambassadorship and many others to make sure that our country is well represented not only in South America but around the world going forward.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled at 12 noon start immediately.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1149, Frances Kay Behm, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Frances Kay Behm, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 374 Ex.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Boozman	Capito
Blackburn	Braun	Cassidy
Blunt	Burr	Cornyn

Cotton	Johnson	Rubio
Cramer	Kennedy	Sasse
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lee	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lummis	Shelby
Ernst	Marshall	Sullivan
Fischer	McConnell	Thune
Grassley	Moran	Toomey
Hagerty	Paul	Tuberville
Hawley	Portman	Wicker
Hoeven	Risch	Young
Hyde-Smith	Romney	
Inhofe	Rounds	

NOT VOTING—7

Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Murphy	
Kelly	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. OSSOFF).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed with the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1184, Kelley Brisbon Hodge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Tim Kaine, Michael F. Bennet, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Cory A. Booker, Mark R. Warner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kelley Brisbon Hodge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 375 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rounds
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murray	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warner
Durbin	Padilla	Warren
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Portman	Wyden
Graham	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeben	Sasse
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Wicker
Cruz	Marshall	Young
Daines	McConnell	
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—5

Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Warnock
Kelly	Murphy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kelley Brisbon Hodge, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The Senator from Louisiana.

INFLATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk a few minutes today about inflation, but I don't want to just talk about the problem; I want to talk about the solution as well as Congress's role. I don't need to tell the American people—and I certainly don't need to tell my colleagues—about inflation.

The inflation we are experiencing today is the highest since 1982, and it really is ravaging the American people. It is gutting them like a fish.

Depending upon which experts you believe, the inflation rate right now is about 8 percent. Most Americans will

tell you viscerally they feel that it is higher. Every time they go to the grocery store, they feel like prices have gone up 8 percent.

And I don't really want to debate or discuss the causes too much.

There are basically two types of inflation. There is what is called demand-pull inflation and cost-push inflation.

Inflation is just basically too much money chasing too few goods. If you restrict the supply of the goods, that is called cost-push inflation. If you keep the supply of the goods constant and raise demand for the goods, that is called demand-pull inflation.

And the truth is, our current inflation is a direct product of both cost-push and demand-pull.

I do think—well, I know that the U.S. Congress had to spend more money than we would have liked to deal with the pandemic, but I also believe that once the pandemic was over and the economy was recovering, we kept on spending and all of that spending was stimulatory or stimulative and all of that spending did add to inflation. Once again, too much money chasing too few goods.

Since the 1950s, we have had roughly 10 periods of inflation—some very high inflation, some more moderate—but 10 inflationary periods, if you will, in which government decided we need to reduce the rise in prices. We need to reduce inflation.

Most people remember the inflationary period of the 1980s—I know you do, Mr. President—but there have been 10 inflationary periods. And normally what we do to deal with inflation—we talk about Federal Reserve. And we know the Federal Reserve, to get prices down, raises interest rates.

Well, why does the Federal Reserve do that?

It does that to slow the economy.

Well, what does that mean? How do you measure slowing the economy?

Well, here is the dirty little secret that we all don't talk about much: When the Federal Reserve raises interest rates to slow the economy, I will tell you how they measure it, they measure it in jobs, and they measure it in the unemployment rate.

And, in effect—I am not being critical of them. The Federal Reserve is doing its job. But what the Federal Reserve does when it raises interest rates to slow the economy, they are trying to throw people out of work. They are trying to throw people out of work.

Now, I made a few notes. Right now, the unemployment rate is about 3.7 percent. And if you go back in these 10 periods of inflation since the 1950s and look at how many people the Federal Reserve had to put out of work in order to get the inflation down, here is what you see: On average, during those 10 periods, to get inflation down 2 percent, we had to see a rise in unemployment of 3.6 percent.

Now, what does that mean?

Today, unemployment is about 3.7 percent. Inflation is—let's call it 8 per-

cent. Historically—I am not saying it will be the case this time, but historically that would mean that the Federal Reserve, in order to reduce inflation by 2 percent, would have to raise unemployment to 7.3 percent.

And those aren't just a bunch of sterile statistics on a page. Those are 6 million jobs that will be lost, people out of work.

We have some really smart economists who have looked at this problem—Jason Furman, for example, Larry Summers. They both happen to be smart economists who served President Obama. They are suggesting that in order to get this high inflation down, if we just depend on the Federal Reserve alone, that we will have to have an unemployment rate of between 7.5 and 10 percent for a pretty long period of time.

That is anywhere from 8 to 10 million Americans out of work, and that is a lot of pain.

Now, what can Congress do to help?

If you look at the worst of those 10 periods of inflation, most people—I do—think of the 1980s, and most people consider Paul Volcker to be a hero because the then-Federal Reserve Chairman got inflation down.

And a lot of people think that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve then did it all by himself by raising interest rates so high, causing unemployment to go up so high, causing a lot of pain.

He didn't do it alone. Congress helped him. When the Reagan administration came in, the Reagan administration—first thing it did, it cut taxes, which was inflationary—no question—but then the Reagan administration and the U.S. Congress worked with the Federal Reserve whereby the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates, but Congress tried to slow the growth in spending, not cut spending in the sense of our budget this year will be less than last year, just slowing the growth in spending and slowing debt accumulation. And that is how we conquered, other than now, the worst inflationary period in the United States. It wasn't just the Federal Reserve; Congress did its part.

We have to slow the rate of growth in our budget, and we have to slow the accumulation of debt. Now, one might say: Well, you know, Congress doesn't have to do anything; the United States Senate can do what it wants. And that is true. That is true. But if we don't, if we don't slow the rate of growth in our spending, if we don't slow the accumulation of debt, that is going to cause the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates even higher to slow the economy, to raise the unemployment rate, to throw people out of work.

All I am saying is, we all hate inflation. Nobody wants this inflation. And we can debate until the cows come home about what caused it, OK? Was it supply chain? Is it Ukraine? Is it Putin? I happen to think a big part of it is demand-fueled inflation, and we just spent too much money once the

pandemic was over. But I know many of my Democratic friends disagree with me, but they can't—they shouldn't disagree with me on this: We need to do our part to help the Federal Reserve because the Federal Reserve is not raising interest rates just to raise rates; it is raising interest rates, which is its job, to throw people out of work. If it has to raise interest rates to 10 or 12 percent and keep them there, we are going to have 10-plus million Americans out of work. And do you know what is worse than not having enough money to pay for what you need? Not having any money. Losing your job.

Congress can help, but it is going to require help from both sides, both Democrats and Republicans. We are going to have to agree to spend less money. We just are. And I know we have needs, and I am not saying cut the budget in half, but we have to reduce the rate of growth in our spending, and we have to reduce the rate of accumulation in our debt. Even then, we won't be able to avoid all the pain of inflation, but we will be able to save, I predict, millions and millions of jobs we would otherwise lose to these high interest rates.

I know not all my colleagues agree with me. They don't. I have Republican colleagues—I know there are some of my Democrat friends, but I have some Republican colleagues who think that how much we spend makes no difference. They think it makes absolutely no difference. With all the respect I can muster, they are wrong. All you have to do is look at history, and the only way we conquered inflation the last time it was this bad in the 1980s was through cooperation of the Federal Reserve doing its job on the monetary side but also this Congress doing its job on the fiscal side.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, when I gave my first speech on the Senate floor 12 years ago or when I cast my first vote in the House 26 years ago, I had really no way to anticipate the challenges and opportunities that were ahead of us.

I come to the floor today grateful for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol. When we agree and when we don't, we are bound by the Constitution to seek a more perfect Union.

Of course, I am most grateful to Missourians, who have given me the chance to work with them as a county official, as the Missouri Secretary of State, and in both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

Missouri is where the country comes together—the North meets the South, the East meets the West. No State has more States at its borders than us and only one with as many States as we have. We have been the population center of America for the last five decades in kind of moving down Interstate 44 as the population has moved west and south. We sit in the middle of the biggest piece of contiguous agricultural farmland in the world, and it is the only one that has its own built-in transportation system—the Mississippi River Valley.

St. Louis is sometimes described as the westernmost eastern city, and Kansas City, really, may be more like Denver and Omaha than it is St. Louis. Springfield, where I live, kind of looks to the west and the south to Tulsa and to Fayetteville. The bootheel of our State is the Delta South in every way—the economy, the topography. What happens there is reflective of other places more than it is the rest of our State.

I was in northern Missouri quite a bit this summer, and while in northern Missouri—those two counties that border Iowa—one of the people with me one day when I was the secretary of state said: When we are up here, I always feel like we are on top of the world.

I never go to northern Missouri now unless I feel like I am on top of the world.

Of course, every Senator thinks their State is unique, and it is. A couple of years ago, I spent a few minutes each day trying to figure out and, for about a period of 6 months, wondering how the other 99 Members got here. With a couple of exceptions, I was able to figure it out.

(Laughter.)

I have some question in my mind about a couple of our friends, but as I looked at it, I figured out somebody has unique people skills, and other people have extraordinary political skills. Maybe it is the ability to quickly understand complicated things or the ability to explain complicated things so that other people can understand them. Most of the time, however, we just have an incredible amount of wasted talent. If you could take the collective talent of the 100 U.S. Senators and make the most of it, there is absolutely no telling what might happen.

Now, part of that is because the Senate isn't expected to work efficiently. We don't have many rules, and what does get done usually gets done by either unanimous consent or total exhaustion. Those are our two stopping points. Our Federal Government was designed by people who didn't trust government and didn't want too much of it. They made it hard to get things done. They opted for inefficiency, and that inefficiency is really mind-boggling to people who are more familiar with the parliamentary system, where, if it doesn't get done and it isn't efficient, it fails. We certainly aren't built that way.

We have clearly found new levels of inefficiency in the past decade—one big bill at the end of the year to fund the government plus whatever the four leaders of the House and Senate can agree to add to it. Once again, we are at that year-ending process to cobble together some kind of result. Now, the only thing worse than the way we do it would be not doing it. The only thing worse than the way we do it is just to decide not to get our work done and see what happens. So we are, once again, down to the next 4 weeks to get our work done or, even better, the next 3 weeks. It wouldn't be bad if we got it done in the next 2 weeks, but we are following the pattern here, in my view, we have followed for too long.

You know, I have seen the standard process of regular order work. In my first decade in the Congress, it never worked perfectly, but it came pretty close to the standard that had been set for two centuries. There is good reason for how a bill becomes a law whether you first saw it on a filmstrip, like I probably did, or on "Schoolhouse Rock!" like my kids did. You know how it is supposed to work: Members of a committee and staff who know the most about an issue hold hearings; they mark up a bill; the bill is to be debated and amended on the floor of both the House and the Senate before it goes to the President to be signed or vetoed. For 225 years, the topics of what to fund and how to pay for it have dominated the congressional debate, and we, frankly, need to get back to that, where people see what is going on and Members feel bought in to what is going on.

But then and now, during that whole time, whether regular order was working or not, the rules of the Senate really required finding someone on the other side to work with. There have never been more than 56 popularly elected Republican Senators and only a handful of times have there been 60 or more Democrats. Finding someone on the other side to work with produces the most lasting results.

A couple of Congresses ago, there were 52 on my side and 48 on the other side. My staff decided it would be interesting—they came to me one day and said: We just thought it would be interesting to check and see how many of the 48 Democrats you figured out how to be the principal sponsor of a bill with. The answer was 44. I thought that was a pretty good number.

My point then and now is you don't have to agree on everything to work together; you just have to agree on one thing. And if you find that one thing you agree on and, frankly, particularly if you are successful, both the Members working together and their staffs think: Well, gee, we could do that again.

In healthcare research, Senator MURRAY and I, along with Chairman COLE on the House side and, eventually, the ranking member, then-Chairman DELAUNO, worked together to significantly change NIH research.

Senator KLOBUCHAR and I have done lots of things together. We have worked on the travel economy, which is a big part of our economy. We have worked to rewrite the workplace harassment standards for the Senate. We have worked on adoption issues.

Senator BROWN and I passed a bill of advanced manufacturing. We had known each other for years. Once we figured out we could pass one bill together, we passed five. It has the good effect.

Senator STABENOW and I have worked so hard on Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers. We have worked on this for well over a decade now, and we have made, I think, incredible progress. Neither of us would have gotten that done by ourselves.

Senators CAPITO and SHAHEEN and PORTMAN and MANCHIN all worked with me and our committee on opioid and dependency issues. We were making real progress. I think the pandemic set that progress back, but it shouldn't stop us from moving forward.

Senator COONS founded with me the Law Enforcement Caucus. We worked, every time it came up, to expand it and the Victims of Child Abuse Act and the volunteer community efforts.

There are other retiring Members I want to mention whom I have worked with as well: Senator LEAHY and Senator SHELBY, both on the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee. You know, on the Appropriations Committee, I got to see the last of Senator Inouye and Senator Cochran still at their best and Barbara Mikulski—people who didn't have to have a perfect result to have a result—and it was wonderful to get to watch them work.

Senator INHOFE was, obviously, totally focused on what it takes to defend the country. He was here for his remarks, his farewell speech, the other day and pointed out that he found somebody he didn't agree with on hardly anything—Barbara Boxer—and they came up with public works bill after public works bill.

Senator BURR, who is leaving, has been my chairman on the Intelligence Committee and has been so capable and so knowledgeable on that committee. He has been really, incredibly, helpful to me.

Senator PORTMAN and I have been at the leadership table in both the House and the Senate. I have been in more meetings with ROB PORTMAN than I have ever been with anybody I have ever served on a committee with, and it has been great.

PAT TOOMEY, of course, brings incredible understanding of finance issues and the economy.

My longest relationships, of course, are with my House colleagues. Senator THUNE, Senator MORAN, and I all came to the House at the same time along with Senator STABENOW. Senator MORAN and Senator BOOZMAN and I all came to the Senate together from the House.

Senator CARDIN, Senator GRAHAM, Senator CASSIDY, Senator BLACKBURN, Senator BROWN, Senator WICKER, and others have been part of my work life for a long, long time. Together, we have faced big challenges. You know, after 9/11, we saw a new terrorist threat. I was in the middle of that discussion of the continuity of government when I had the sudden realization that our government could dramatically change, and we had not thought about what might happen if it did change.

Dick Gephardt—my fellow Missourian and who was the Democratic leader at the time—and I came up with this structure for post-9/11 compensation for victims, which worked. Unfortunately, it has worked following now with a number of tragedies, but it was something I was able to be there for as we put it together.

You know, at that time, President Bush said:

[W]e bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies.

Four Presidents have now followed that standard.

For me, the legislative highlights would, of course, include what happens at the NIH, where I have been able to be part of increasing by 50 percent, over 8 years, with Senator MURRAY and others, the commitment we made to healthcare research.

I mentioned Senator STABENOW earlier, but as for the mental health efforts, the changing that I think we have all seen here in just the last few years in how we talk about that issue and how we understand we need to respond to that issue is something I am particularly proud of.

Now, maybe a bill with Senator HEINRICH, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which every conservation group in America is supportive of—maybe we can add that to the list of things I am going to consider a great accomplishment before we leave here, and it has to go in that big bill I talked about earlier that we put together here at the end.

I have had an incredible opportunity to be responsible for two inaugurations. It is one of the most important things we do. That particular event, not me being responsible for it, 100 million people watched live. Tens of millions of people around the world watched all or part of it after that. It is so important we get it right.

In 2017, I decided our theme would be the peaceful transition of power. I remember at both inaugurations I quoted—the only thing I repeated, I think, at those two inaugurations was President Reagan who said in 1981: What we do here today is commonplace and miraculous—commonplace because we have done it every 4 years since 1789, miraculous because we have done it every 4 years since 1789.

In 2021, I said, well, this time, let's talk about our need to have a more perfect Union.

The Founders didn't promise a perfect Union. They were, in that place,

pretty reasonable in their anticipation of what we could do and what we could be, but they did promise a more perfect Union. And that is the effort we continue to be a part of.

To get all of that done, so many other people have to make it possible. All of us appreciate every one of our families. I think we all appreciate each other's families because, better than anybody else, we know what families mean and how important it is that your family is part of this.

My mom and dad were dairy farmers. They never suggested there were any limits to what a person could do in America. There was no sense that you couldn't do everything you wanted to do.

I am most grateful to Abby, my wife. I wouldn't be in the Senate and wouldn't have stayed as long in the House as I did if Abby hadn't been willing to work so much, so hard to make it easier for me to do what I love to do. We are full partners, and I am grateful for that.

All of my children and even their children, we are too often being asked to defend what I did or what I believed or, more often, what people assumed I believed that they got to be a part of history too. Charlie Blunt was flying on Air Force One with President Bush on his second birthday. Who gets to do that?

I will admit, though, however, no one in my family ever said, I wish you would quit. But when I did announce, did decide I was going to leave 2 years ago, I notice that no one said "Are you sure?" except Abby, who did say "Are you sure?"

I have often said if you can only have one skill, that one skill should be hiring. And what a great staff that skill and good luck have produced for me.

My incredible chief of staff, Stacy McBride, has been responsible for so much of what we have gotten done. My deputy chief for the State, Derek Coats, led a great team that did so much for our State and in helping people deal with the Federal Government. My deputy chief of staff here, Richard Eddings, is, along with me, completing 26 years in the Congress and 26 years of working together. He managed the details for the whip's office in the House and the details for our office in the Senate.

The Rules Committee staff takes responsibility to help manage the daily infrastructure of the Senate. No issue is too small or too big. Everything from security decisions for the Presidential inauguration to a recent call to ask whether we could release someone's pet owl in the Russell courtyard so that the owl would have a home and we would all appreciate it. Senator KLOBUCHAR and I quickly decided it probably wouldn't be good for the Russell courtyard or the owl, so that owl was not released.

The Republican Policy Committee staff deals with every vote on the floor, every nomination, every issue. There is

a paper out there explaining all of those things, every bill that has been filed, every amendment, even to the dreaded vote-arama that staff was getting an amendment ready so voters know what they see.

Let me end this farewell with two things: One is another thank-you to Missouri voters.

In my view, the need to find a solution to a problem really took place and took shape in the Greene County courthouse. I have been in all 115 of our counties since I announced I wasn't going to run again. There have been some question in my house as to the judgment of that schedule, but we are through that now, so it is done. In a lot of those courthouses, I was visiting with county officials and said: In my view, there is nowhere in America you are more likely to get a solution to a governmental problem than a county courthouse filled with local elected officials who want to do everything they can possibly do for you to feel like you left with everything done that could possibly be done.

And then, going to be the first Republican secretary of state elected in Missouri in 52 years when I won that office in 1984, I never thought my leading argument was: Why don't you vote for the first Republican ever. I thought it was: If you vote for me, I will do this job, and you will be pleased that you did give me a chance to do it. So I am grateful to them and grateful for the experience.

There is a story that Senator KLOBUCHAR has told more often than I have. When I became the chief deputy whip, on my way to becoming the whip of the House, the first month of my second term in the Congress, I moved from the Cannon Building to the Capitol Building. And I looked on the top of the bookcase in my office, my new office in the Congress, and there was this bust of a person up there.

And I said to my staff: Let's find out who that is. So they come back a couple of weeks later, and they have got these newspaper articles from the 1930s and 1960s, and they say: Well, nobody knows who that is.

It is obvious when you get that bust down and look at it that it is a cleric. So it was the unknown cleric, and it has been with me ever since in one of my offices here.

The point of the unknown cleric, this is a bust that was put in the Capitol probably no earlier than 1830, and by 1930, nobody had any idea who it was.

I had lots of meetings with new freshman members in the House when I was a whip and a number of meetings with people who just happened to be around and would listen to this. I said: The point of this is somebody is famous enough that they made a bust, put it in the Capitol, and then forgot who they are. The point is: What we do here is more important than who we are. Thanks for letting me do part of it with you.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Missouri.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BLUNT

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, if I could, just a brief word of thanks and commemoration for my friend, the senior Senator from Missouri, ROY BLUNT. It has been an incredible privilege to get to serve with Senator BLUNT these last 3½ years. In a sense, I don't know that I would be here in the U.S. Senate were it not for Senator BLUNT.

I think Senator BLUNT was one of—maybe the first person to urge me to consider running for the U.S. Senate, and it has been a true privilege to get to serve alongside him.

He and Abby have been so kind to me and Erin on a personal basis. They were with us throughout the campaign. He was through all of the ups and down, as anybody who has been through a campaign knows. Roy was there. They were there with us on the final days on the bus, with Charlie, as I recall, who, between my boys and Charlie—Charlie was the calming influence on my kid. So they were all the life of the party.

But from that moment forward, ROY and Abby were such good friends and mentors to us. ROY gave me advice about what it is like to raise a family in politics—something that I was just starting out to do. He gave me advice on things large and small in the Senate: helping me understand how the floor worked, helping me choose my first committee assignments. I remember he made time to sit down and talk through that with me about this time, gosh, 4 years ago now. He has been there every time I have had a question, needed help, needed to understand something.

It has been a privilege to get to work together with him on substantive issues that we both care about. I think of veterans in our home State. I think just recently he and I were able to get together to lead a resolution honoring Jared Schmitz, who is one of the marines who lost their lives at Abbey Gate just over a year ago. I saw Jared's father just a few weeks ago, and he remains grateful for what Senator BLUNT did in our continuing efforts to honor him.

ROY and I have worked together for years now to try to get our Nation's laws changed to make sure that the tragedy we saw at Table Rock Lake in our home State involving the failure of duck boats, recreational vehicles, in that State would not happen again. I appreciate ROY's efforts on that. Maybe this is one of the things we will get over the line here in the next couple of weeks.

I want to close—I know there are others who want to speak—I want to close with two stories about Senator BLUNT that I have always loved and that I think really give you insight into ROY BLUNT the man.

The first is his background, his heritage, being raised on a dairy farm. He

mentioned this. I think about this every time I drive home to Ozark, MO, and I drive by the exit near where Senator BLUNT's family farm was. Every time, I usually point out to my boys that this is where Senator BLUNT is from.

Senator BLUNT grew up on a dairy farm. He was the first in his family to go to college, I think.

Is that right? Senator, have I got that right?

He was the first in his family to go to college, and then—this is one of the stories I love—he taught at the same school where his grandfather had been a custodial worker years before. There is something wonderfully Missourian and wonderfully American about that.

One of my other favorite stories is about how Senator BLUNT got into politics. I am told—now, he can say whether or not this is apocryphal, but I am told that his first job in politics was when a certain Missourian known as John Ashcroft, who once held the Senate seat I now occupy, ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1972.

The story goes that ROY walked into his campaign office and said: I would like to work for you.

John Ashcroft said: Well, how much gas do you have in your car?

ROY said: Well, I have a full tank.

John said: Good. You are hired.

And ROY went to work.

The thing about ROY BLUNT, for anybody who has known him for any length of time and certainly for anybody who has served with him in this body, working on any project of any scale, is that ROY BLUNT is a worker. He works day and night. When he says he is going to do something, he does it. When he commits to something, he sees it through. That certainly has been my happy experience with him. He leaves a great legacy of service and commitment and honor in the State of Missouri and here in the U.S. Senate.

I want to say again, ROY, thank you for everything.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I want to thank ROY. We have been through a lot together, and I am so proud to call him a friend, as well as Abby. I have such fond memories of our work together. I have really fun memories of when we once went to Canada—remember that?—with all the Canadian interparliamentarian groups; the work we did on adoption when no one thought we could get anything done, and we stood up for a number of really important bills; and the work we did on travel and tourism to make sure our country could compete with other countries around the world when it came to foreign tourists.

One of my favorite ones was when Senator DUCKWORTH was pregnant and wanted to have permission to bring her baby on the floor just for the first year or 6 months when there were late-night votes and the like. I thought that was

going to be really easy, and I told her we could get it done. Then, every single month, I looked at her, and she was getting more and more pregnant, and I realized I wasn't accomplishing my job. ROY and I worked on that together.

One of my fond memories of that is Senator Hatch being surrounded by media and being asked about it, and he said: Well, that is OK if we have 1 baby on the floor, but what if we have 10 babies on the floor? I said: We already have 10 babies on the floor.

In any case, we were able to get that done.

As ROY mentioned, on a more serious topic, the sexual harassment rules—we instituted training, but we also updated the rules, which is a very difficult issue. We were working with Senator MCCONNELL and working with Senator SCHUMER, as well as the House, to get that done.

Our work on protecting election officials—ROY, having been a previous election official, understood that. We had a bipartisan hearing with the secretaries of state from red States and blue States. That was a major moment for me.

But probably the thing I most remember was on January 6 when we had started the morning with this beautiful celebration and the ceremony of this walk with the young women with the mahogany boxes. Everyone here knows exactly what I am talking about. The insurrection went on, and ROY showed so much leadership that entire day in working with his colleagues, because while the police were on the frontlines, as we recognized today, ROY was doing a lot of work in working out how the process was going to work once we got through there. You know, he was the guy who made that work late into the night.

Then, in the end, at about 3:30 in the morning, it was Vice President PENCE and ROY and myself and those three pairs of pages with the mahogany boxes, walking through the corridors, where we knew that throughout the Capitol there was broken glass and spray-painted columns, and ROY just kept doing his job.

Afterwards, when we got to the House, we knew that democracy had prevailed.

We came back to the Senate—remember this?—and the Sun was coming up. It is like 4 in the morning at this point, and we decided to go down to the Parliamentarian's offices, which were destroyed. One of the beloved members of our Parliamentarian's staff's family picture was on the floor. The whole thing was a mess. We stood there and committed that we were going to not just clean up the Capitol and improve the security but make this all better. That kind of drove my work in the last year.

But what I most remember about that particular moment at 4 in the morning is that we walked out of that room, which was ransacked, and ROY looked at me, and he looked at me with

that typical ROY understatement, and he said: Well, see you tomorrow morning. And I go: OK, ROY.

That is ROY. He did what he said he would do. We did a report immediately on security in the Capitol—we got it done in 6 months—with Senator PETERS and Senator PORTMAN about what had to be done. We made a bunch of changes. We hired a new chief, and we went on from there, because, for ROY, it is always, I will see you in the morning.

And we know, ROY, that we are going to see you in the morning, that you are not going to be a stranger, that you will stay a friend to so many of us. Thank you for your incredible service to the people of your State, to this Senate, and to the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, just very briefly, I have served in three legislative bodies during my lifetime: the Mississippi State Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and then, since New Year's Eve of 2007, here in the United States Senate. I have never had a better friend in any legislative capacity than ROY BLUNT. So this is a very profound moment for me and a very emotional moment for me.

If there were ever anyone who was a born legislator, that person is ROY BLUNT. He sprang to this Earth with the ability to understand a diverse group of individuals representing diverse parts of the country, both in the House and in the Senate, and to bring them together for a result. This country is so much better off because of the legislative skills and the legislative accomplishments of ROY BLUNT. There are people who are well today who had been sick, and they are well because of the efforts of ROY BLUNT. There are people alive today who would not have been had it not been for the legislative skill of ROY BLUNT.

This Republic will go on and this body will go on, of course, but there will be a void in this room, in this Chamber, in this Senate, because of the absence of ROY BLUNT. I don't remember a finer mentor whom I have ever served with, and it is my great honor to count him as a close friend forever and to salute his service today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, when Senator ROY BLUNT announced that he would not seek reelection, he promised to finish strong. As has been the case throughout his public service, he has kept his word.

ROY is not only an effective Senator and a persuasive advocate, but, as Senator WICKER just mentioned, he is also a good friend to so many of us.

On the Appropriations Committee, we have worked together particularly closely when it has come to biomedical research aimed at preventing, treating, and curing Alzheimer's disease.

The fiscal year 2022 funding bill included a historic \$3.5 billion for Alzheimer's research, and that tremendous success would not have come about but for the leadership of ROY BLUNT. It has been truly outstanding. He has extraordinary vision in understanding the need for biomedical research that produces the medical breakthroughs.

The American people also saw ROY's effectiveness with the work he did with Senator BURR on Operation Warp Speed. That was responsible for the development of the COVID vaccines in record time. No one thought that the partnership between the Federal Government and the private sector would be able to produce a vaccine so quickly, but ROY swept away the bureaucratic obstacles, he provided the funding, and most of all, he provided the vision. As a result of ROY's work, we have a COVID vaccine that has saved the lives of so many people.

Serving with ROY not only on the Appropriations Committee but also on the Intelligence Committee, I have seen firsthand the extraordinary number of contributions he has made to our country. He is an experienced and skillful legislator who has the vision to write policy that makes a real difference.

ROY has mentioned the role that he has played as master of ceremonies for the inauguration of President Biden. At the time, he delivered brief remarks on the preamble to our Constitution, observing that it establishes the uniquely American principle that government derives its authority from "we the people." Our ongoing mission to create a "more perfect Union" is a continuing project, ROY noted, adding that "we are more than we have been and we are less than we hope to be."

ROY, you have played a key role in advancing that mission, and it has been such an honor to serve with you. I wish you, Abby, Charlie, and the rest of your family all the best in the years to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, on ROY BLUNT, I first met him when he was a whip in the House. We had some kind of conference going, and I thought: My gosh, he can count votes. He is the whip. He can count votes in the conference, too, and so forth.

And then, when he came and started running for the Senate, I was one of many over here who wanted to help him get here. And when he came in, as has been said here, he went right into the leadership because he is a leader.

ROY, you have got it in you. You are a natural. It is in your bones, so to speak. And you have brought a lot to this Senate.

I have worked with you on just about everything, but especially on the Appropriations Committee, and you have been stellar. You have a great family. You have a great wife. You have a son who is the former Governor of the State of Missouri. We would miss you,

but I won't be one of the "we's." I will be gone too. But at the same time, they will miss you here. But they will miss you reaching out to the other side to make things happen. Reaching out to show that America is first; the country is first—and reaching out just over the aisle and to others with natural friendship, which means a lot up here and something we need to do more of.

But we wish you well. You will do well in your next life, whatever that is, and maybe we will see you again after January sometime.

I would like to start by thanking my good friend from Missouri, Senator ROY BLUNT, for his decades of dedicated service.

We have served together in the Senate for 12 years, and together in Congress for 26 years.

I remember when Senator BLUNT was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1996 and later to the Senate in 2010.

ROY is a fifth generation Missourian who grew up on a dairy farm.

Before coming to Washington, he was a high school history teacher and later a county official for 12 years.

In 1984, ROY was elected to be the first Republican secretary of state in more than 50 years in the State of Missouri.

He then served as the president of his alma mater, Southwest Baptist University, which undoubtedly prepared him for his many years of prioritizing education funding as the lead Republican Senator on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

Senator BLUNT has been a force in the Senate, sitting on the Appropriations Committee; the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; the Select Committee on Intelligence; and chairing the important Rules Committee.

Notably, Senator BLUNT was elected to the Senate leadership during his first year in the Senate.

He is currently the chair of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, a vital arm within our Republican leadership.

As I mentioned, he is the top Republican on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

In this position, we have worked together to grow NIH funding, which has increased 51 percent in the past 7 years; prioritize medical research, and improve access to quality education.

Senator BLUNT has also been instrumental in protecting the Hyde amendment and other long-standing pro-life provisions in this bill.

As the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, he planned and spoke during the 59th Presidential inauguration in 2021.

This was an important moment for our Nation.

While Senator BLUNT's service in the Senate has been significant, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that he was

also a powerful force in the House of Representatives, where he was elected seven times to represent Missouri's seventh district.

In the House, ROY was elected the majority whip earlier in his career than any Member of Congress in eight decades.

He also served as the acting House majority leader for a period of time.

Senator BLUNT has a reputation for being a statesman and a longstanding record of working in a bipartisan manner to get things done.

His dedication to the betterment of our country has been invaluable.

I want to thank Senator BLUNT for his service, as well as his wife Abigail, along with his four children and six grandchildren.

Annette and I have enjoyed their friendship over the years.

I wish Senator BLUNT the best in his next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I rise today to remind my colleagues of what we have often heard: In Washington, if you want a friend, get a dog.

ROY BLUNT destroys that because Roy has been a true friend. Our relationship goes back to the House, though. The Senator wasn't whip when I was there. Clearly, he came in, and the math got better.

But Abby is a strong woman. She has put up with a lot, as have all of our spouses. And, Abby, I hope you have a wonderful chapter in what is in store for him next.

I want to speak from the standpoint of chair of the Intelligence Committee, and the fact that I work with 14 extraordinary people who understand upfront that they are going to learn a lot, they are going to be faced with some tough decisions, and they are not going to be able to talk to their colleagues, their friends, their family about anything that goes on.

There can be some rather difficult days to go through, as we have seen over the 18 years I have been in the Senate and—16, 14?

MR. BLUNT. Twelve.

Mr. BURR. And the 12 that ROY has been in. But I have got to say that I never questioned whether ROY was going to be prepared, whether he was going to attend, whether he was going to absorb what he heard, and, more importantly, whether he was going to make a prudent decision about what we do.

I can say that he mirrors the other 13—Susan, you being one of them—and I think that what ROY brings to this representation from Missouri is not only a man of character but a true leader.

I expected to hear in your farewell address the words of Harry Truman, and I am paraphrasing when I say this because I can't remember the direct quote, but he was referencing all the things we think about that we do.

But Truman boiled it down to this: The only things that matter are what happens in this room, in the U.S. Senate.

And as we all three of us think of our departures, I don't think Missouri yet understands the loss that they have got by not having ROY BLUNT here. But I do understand this: There are 99 other Members of the Senate who understand what the Senate will lose with ROY BLUNT's decision to retire.

So for all the good that you have done, Roy, I wish you many years of success from this point forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, it is an honor to join with my colleagues to speak about someone that is a dear friend. And I have often said to the Senator: You are not really leaving; I am putting you in a closet and locking the door, and we are not letting you leave.

But then I know that Abby and Charlie and your whole family would not appreciate that.

We first met back in the 1980s, when Senator BLUNT was the secretary of state in Missouri and I was a State legislator. It was the first year that the national Jaycees went from 10 outstanding young men to 10 outstanding young Americans, and I had the honor of being one of three women honored that year. But we met in Tulsa, OK, and ROY has often joked that we met in a hotel room, but then he quickly explains what that was to Abby. But we had the opportunity to be there together.

And then it wasn't until the 1996 election. We were both elected to the U.S. House. We were standing on the steps of the U.S. House, outside, to take a picture of the freshman class, and 1996 it was, the end of the year. I turn around, and ROY BLUNT is standing right next to me. And I said: I know you.

We gathered together again and really struck up a friendship. Then we both were on the House Agriculture Committee, and the very first bill I think either of us ever introduced was this very exciting bill about wheat germ. So I often was asked what was the first bill I ever introduced, and it was a wheat disease bill. But ROY and I got it done and went on to really form a wonderful friendship ever since.

I was very excited when he then joined us in the U.S. Senate. As many people know, in addition to our having led the bills on community health centers, we have partnered together on a new concept of community behavioral health clinics, actually, funding mental health and addiction services the same as physical health, and that started 10 years ago.

We stood on the floor of the Senate when we first introduced the bill and talked about how President John F. Kennedy had actually signed—the last law he ever signed, the last act he ever

signed, in 1963, was an act to create community mental health centers. And the idea was to close, at that time, what they called asylums and give people community care; care close to home, families, support people; to be able to be in the community and be successful. Well, the hospitals got closed, but the rest of it never happened.

So I am so honored to have partnered, and want to continue to partner, with ROY as he leaves here for other things, to move forward the rest of the story, which is effective community care for folks, not in a jail, not in an emergency department, but in the community, with their family, allowing them to be successful and work and living their lives because they are getting the care that they need. So I am very honored to have had the opportunity to work with ROY on that as well.

Now, Senator WICKER was talking, and I thought he might have said something about the trip that we took together to Asia with Senator BLUNT. Senator BLUNT was wonderful at putting together bipartisan trips, and we had the opportunity to go to a number of places in Australia because part of everything else that he does is that he has been one of the leaders in an inter-parliamentary partnership with the United States of America and Australia. And I was pleased, I think last year, to see you receive a very significant honor here because of your work.

But we had an opportunity to travel together with Abby and for all of us to be together and really show a bipartisan front to other world leaders.

I will say as an aside that you never want to play cards with him because he is a very good card player, and I have often said that I think he counts cards because he is so good.

On a serious note, I really am going to miss this gentleman from Missouri. I am proud to have him as a friend, as a partner, and someone who really exemplifies what it means to be a statesman, to be a public servant.

And I just send you all my best and all my love for you and your family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. I ask unanimous consent that Senator COLLINS, Senator INHOFE, and I be allowed to give our remarks before the next vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, as we see, this is that difficult time of the year when we pause and say goodbye, farewell, and Godspeed to departing Members of this body.

Senator COLLINS and I are prepared to act as a team at this moment to wish the very best and pay tribute to two individuals, RICHARD SHELBY of Alabama and JIM INHOFE of Oklahoma.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD SHELBY

Senator SHELBY is a gifted legislator and a southern gentleman whose impact on this Nation will not soon be

forgotten. His colleagues and constituents know him for his long record of championing economic development and as a champion in the House of Representatives and in the Senate for our military, as leader of the Appropriations Committee here in the Senate.

RICHARD SHELBY is the quintessential problem-solver. He has always known how to sit down, negotiate, and get a result, and I wish him the best in this final month of his career in once again getting a result.

Indeed, the jobs created through RICHARD SHELBY's legislation and committee work number in the hundreds of thousands—the hundreds of thousands of jobs.

So it is no surprise that there are now monuments to RICHARD SHELBY's leadership all over Alabama and the entire Nation. As his next door neighbors across the State line, we Mississippians have directly benefited from his leadership.

So I wish him and his wife Annette well as they begin the next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Madam President, now I turn to my friend the senior Senator from Oklahoma, JIM INHOFE, a man who I have had the privilege of working with on the Armed Services Committee these last 14 years.

Senator INHOFE represented Oklahoma for 28 years in this body and 6 years before that in the House of Representatives. In all of those years, he could always be counted on to attend every single Wednesday morning Prayer Breakfast and Thursday Bible study. One time, he had to attend by telephone because he was called away by a family crisis. But we could always count on him.

He has been a close friend on both sides of the aisle to people like Barbara Boxer of California, JACK REED of Rhode Island, BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, and Democratic Leader Harry Reid. Perhaps it was those friendships that explained his mountain of legislative success, with bipartisan achievements that include three highway bills, four Water Resources and Development Acts, seven National Defense Authorization Acts, including the current bill pending before this body—a bill which literally bears his name.

But that success also came from his breadth-of-life experience. He understood how to create jobs because, he himself, had done that as a businessman for 30 years, working in aviation, real estate, and insurance. He understood the challenges of local government because he had been the mayor of Tulsa and a State legislator. As a leader on the Armed Services Committee, he could speak for our men and women in uniform because he had been one of them, having served in the Army.

As a personal friend of Ronald Reagan, he never wavered in advocating for peace through strength. Oklahoma's five military bases are unquestionably better off today because

of their staunch advocate, Senator JIM INHOFE.

Thanks to his leadership, veterans have better facilities, our Air Force is better equipped, and the military now has AFRICOM as a distinct mission on the African continent. It bears saying that Senator INHOFE has a long-standing affection for Africa and the people of Africa. There is no one in Congress—or in the State Department, for that matter—who can surpass his personal knowledge of African leaders.

On a typical congressional delegation trip, he would hit an average of 12 countries in 10 days, covering 18,000 miles and meeting with civilian and military leaders at every stop, always looking for an opportunity to pray with them, always visiting American troops.

He has been to Africa more times than any Member of Congress since America's founding—172 visits on the African continent.

When he isn't making law or traveling the globe or watching his grandsons' athletic events, there is a good chance he is in the air somewhere flying a Cessna because Senator INHOFE is also Pilot INHOFE, with nearly 12,000 hours of flight time, including a solo flight around the world.

He will also be remembered for that 1991 trip in which he flew the flight path of Wiley Post, which went straight through Russian airspace. His Russian escort pilot even remarked on his outstanding piloting skills.

As JIM INHOFE departs this Chamber, he leaves behind a wealth of friends and an army of former staff whose talent and loyalty are a testament to the man himself.

I know he will look forward to spending more time with his wife of 63 years, Kay, and his 20 grandchildren and—his 20 children and grandchildren.

Both of these gentlemen, both of these friends, JIM INHOFE and RICHARD SHELBY, will go down as titans of the Senate. Their enormous contributions to the good of our Nation will not soon be forgotten, and we will miss their company.

I wish them both farewell and Godspeed.

And now I yield to my friend, the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, for her remarks about these two outstanding friends.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, what a pleasure it is to join Senator WICKER in paying tribute to our dear friends and outstanding colleagues, Senators JIM INHOFE and RICHARD SHELBY.

We could talk about their accomplishments on the floor for many, many hours, but in the interest of time, we are going to focus—as has my colleague from Mississippi—on their truly outstanding contributions to our national security.

Their unwavering commitment to the security of our Nation and the well-being of our servicemembers has been truly remarkable.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. President, let me start with JIM INHOFE. A veteran of the U.S. Army, JIM has been a champion for enhancing our national security and providing our brave servicemen and -women with the resources that they need to carry out their missions.

Through his leadership of the Senate Armed Services Committee, JIM has ensured that the Senate completed its annual work on the National Defense Authorization Act, and he has made countless contributions to the military that have made our country safer.

His selection by the Association of the United States Army as its 2022 Legislator of the Year recognizes his unwavering dedication for the total Army—our soldiers, our families, caregivers, and veterans.

As a constitutional conservative, JIM firmly adheres to his principles, while always being willing to seek out bipartisan compromises wherever possible.

JIM has been a leader in strengthening the ties between the United States and the nations of Africa.

As my colleague from Mississippi has mentioned—but I am going to reiterate because it is so astonishing—Senator INHOFE has visited the continent of Africa an astonishing 172 times as a Senator.

He is particularly close to the nation of Ethiopia. It is close to his heart for many reasons, including the fact that it is the birthplace of one of his granddaughters.

He puts his faith into action through his staunch support of Project Mercy, a nonprofit organization that has led the way in helping raise Ethiopians out of poverty and extreme hunger.

The enduring friendships that JIM has made with both his Republican and Democratic colleagues here in the Senate reflect not only his ability to find common ground, but also his kindness, his good heart as well.

I deeply value our friendship and our service together in the U.S. Senate.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD SHELBY

Mr. President, let me now say a few words about another dear friend and extraordinary leader, Senator RICHARD SHELBY of Alabama.

As chairman and vice chair of both the Appropriations Committee and of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, RICHARD SHELBY has dedicated himself to ensuring that the United States remains the world's most advanced and effective military force. He has ensured that our Nation's servicemembers are equipped with the tools that they need to protect and defend our country.

I know that the people of Alabama are so proud of his countless contributions to his State. He has worked tirelessly to support the servicemembers, veterans, and defense industry workers who call Alabama home. Redstone Arsenal, Maxwell Air Force Base, and Fort Rucker are all vital national hubs for various military commands and activities due to the leadership of RICHARD SHELBY.

RICHARD's legislative influence has been extraordinarily broad. He has chaired four Senate committees—Appropriations, Rules, Intelligence, and Banking, where he holds the record for the longest tenure of committee membership.

His extensive knowledge, combined with the deep bonds that he has forged with his fellow Members of Congress in both the Senate and the House, has enabled him to compile an extensive list of accomplishments.

Serving with RICHARD on the Appropriations Committee, I have witnessed firsthand his command of policy and his skill as a negotiator. He truly is a master legislator, always focused on securing tangible results.

One example that stands out occurred in 2018, when he took over as chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Under his leadership, the fiscal year 2019 Defense bill marked the first time that America's military had been funded on time through regular order in a decade. RICHARD SHELBY did it.

RICHARD has also played a crucial role in positioning our country as a leader in scientific achievement, advancement, exploration, and discovery. He looks to the future, placing a premium on funding innovative research in areas such as hypersonics, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence.

From the early days of the space race to today, Alabama has been a vital hub of cutting-edge research on propulsion and space systems, particularly through the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. Richard has consistently ensured that funding would be there for NASA to preserve America's superiority in the final frontier.

As their service in the U.S. Senate draws to a close, Senator JIM INHOFE and Senator RICHARD SHELBY will go down in history and long be remembered for their dedication to our Armed Forces and their determination to keep America free and strong. Their legacy will continue to inspire all of us to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

I thank all of them; I thank both of them. I thank their wives Kay and Annette for their service as well. And it is a great pleasure to join with my colleague ROGER WICKER in paying tribute to two extraordinary Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to make 5-minute remarks before the vote is called.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I wanted to get to the floor today to say thank you to some colleagues that are truly deserving of it. There are three of them here. My understanding is that Senator SHELBY, or "The Chairman," as I call him, has not yet made his farewell speech, so I am going to reserve my laudatory comments for somebody who I will always consider "the chairman" of the Appropriations Committee, even when he is the rank-

ing member and even when he is not here. He is truly the chairman, and I have learned so much from him and am deeply appreciative for his incredible work and want to talk about that at greater length after he has made his floor speech.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Mr. President, I do want to take the opportunity, though, to thank Senator Jim Inhofe for his incredible leadership of the military affairs committee—the Senate Armed Services, excuse me, and his dedication and his commitment to our military.

In North Dakota, we have the Minot Air Force Base, we have the Grand Forks Air Force Base; so I am particularly appreciative that Senator INHOFE is, in fact, a pilot because not only is he a steadfast advocate for our military in every respect, but as a pilot, certainly, the Air Force is something that he understands, appreciates, and has provided incredible support for the amazing work that our men and women in uniform in blue do.

And as I have worked on issues related to my State at the Minot Air Force Base and the Grand Forks Air Force Base, without exception, when I have gone to Chairman or Ranking Member INHOFE for discussions and help on issues important to the Air Force in general, but certainly to our bases, he has been there and his understanding and his commitment to listen, to truly be a gentleman, to listen, and to consider what it is you are working on—he wasn't always able to do it just the way you hoped maybe it should get done, but he always made sure that he worked through the issue in a fair way and came to a good result. And in many cases, that result occurred in the near term; sometimes it took a little longer.

But I think that commitment to consider everybody's point of view and work with both sides of the aisle—his relationship with current Chairman JACK REED I think is remarkable, and I think the two of them leading our Armed Services Committee has made a big difference. Their relationship and how they approach things, which in many ways is similar, is the reason we have been able to get the NDAA legislation passed across the floor, even at times when it has been very difficult to do. They have led the way, and I know that they are working hard and will continue to lead the way again this year on the NDAA, and Senator INHOFE will be deeply missed. He is truly a friend and an advocate for our military, and his incredible devotion to them will be missed. And we thank him for it and for, as a colleague, the way he has approached every issue that he has worked on during his time here in the U.S. Senate.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BLUNT

Mr. President, I also want to thank and extoll for just several minutes Senator ROY BLUNT.

I think anybody who has worked with Senator BLUNT would state that he is

incredibly intelligent. He is one of those people you realize how smart he is not because of how much he says but actually sometimes how little he says, meaning he can express thoughts and concepts so cogently, and that takes a very sharp mind to actually say something profound with a minimum number of words and not in a long and rambling speech. He has common sense that sometimes you don't realize until you work with him a little bit and just listen to him a little bit.

He has played a prominent role as a member of our leadership team. I worked with him on Appropriations as well, on the Appropriations Committee with our able chairman, as I mentioned earlier. But invariably what I found is that when you talk to Senator ROY BLUNT, if what you are talking about makes common sense—common sense—he is almost always there.

He is one of the most pragmatic, well-reasoned, thoughtful Senators we have. Again, in a way, he is a master of the understatement, where, like I say, in just a few words or a cogent thought, he can get to the heart of the issues.

I want to go through just one story about him before I yield the floor. When I first came in as a Senator in 2011, after having worked as Governor for our State of North Dakota, for the prior decade, one of the things that immediately came up when I met ROY BLUNT and talked to him about issues is the Missouri River. North Dakota is on the north end and, obviously, Missouri is on the south end and we have some different ideas about how the waters of the Missouri River should be managed and utilized for the great people of our respective States and all the people in between.

As they used to say in the West and probably still do: Whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting.

And we battled on every imaginable issue that you can think of on the Missouri River. Senator Kit Bond, a former Senator from Missouri, and our Senators were at loggerheads all the time on water issues relative to the great Missouri River.

So right off the bat, actually, Senator BLUNT sought me out and said: You know, our predecessors did nothing but fight on the Missouri River. Let's see if we can't figure out a way where we can work together.

And I said: Gee, that sounds good to me.

So the first thing we did is we set up a trip. We started at the north end. We actually started at Fort Peck in Montana and went all the way, starting at the north end all the way down—from the northwest all the way down to the southeast end of the river and ended up in St. Louis, MO. We stopped all along the way at all the dams and reservoirs and every place of significance and talked about the issues, tried to understand what everybody needed.

I have to say, over the last 12 years, I am not sure we agreed on every as-

pect of managing the Missouri River but the vast, vast majority—I think both of our States and the States in between have benefited from that. We have been able to do, I think, some remarkable things with the Corps of Engineers because we took that approach to see if we couldn't figure out how to work together on something of tremendous consequence not only for both of our respective States but for the country. That is the kind of leadership and that is the kind of common sense and wisdom that ROY BLUNT brought to this job every day.

So to Roy and to Abby, friends of Mikey and I, we will truly miss—our conference will truly miss and our institution will miss Senator JIM INHOFE and Senator ROY BLUNT, and we are going to miss the chairman, too, but I will talk about him on another occasion.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF FRANCES KAY BEHM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Frances Kay Behm to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She is a highly experienced jurist who will serve with distinction on the Federal bench. Judge Behm graduated summa cum laude from Albion College and earned her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. After law school, she spent more than a decade in private practice, representing a broad range of clients in business litigation, transactional matters, and probate proceedings, as well as preparing estate planning documents.

In 2009, then-Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Judge Behm to serve as a judge for the Genesee County, MI, circuit and probate courts. On the bench, she has presided over a wide range of cases—including criminal, civil, juvenile, and probate matters. As a family court judge, Judge Behm has presided over approximately 1,600 bench trials and three jury trials. Since 2019, she has presided over 16 bench trials and 18 jury trials on the general/civil/criminal division/business court.

Judge Behm has the strong support of her home State Senators, Ms. STABENOW and Mr. PETERS. In addition, she received a unanimous rating of “well qualified” from the American Bar Association. I am proud to support Judge Behm's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

NOMINATION OF KELLEY BRISBON HODGE

Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm another highly qualified judicial nominee: Kelley Hodge to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

A graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law, Ms. Hodge has a range of legal experience that will serve her well as a judge. Ms. Hodge has worked in the courtroom as both a public defender in Richmond, VA, and as a prosecutor in the district attorney's office in Philadelphia, PA.

And in 2017, she became the first African-American woman to serve as the district attorney for the city of Philadelphia. In addition, Ms. Hodge is an expert in juvenile justice and education policy, having served as the Safe Schools Advocate for the city of Philadelphia, acting director of the Pennsylvania Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the first full-time title IX coordinator for the University of Virginia.

Since returning to private practice, Ms. Hodge has advised clients on discrimination and harassment matters, government compliance, and internal investigations. Moreover, she has served as an adjudicator for various colleges and universities in administrative proceedings involving title IX or violations of student codes of conduct.

Given her courtroom and adjudication experience, it is no surprise that the American Bar Association rated Ms. Hodge as unanimously “well qualified.” In addition, she enjoys the strong, bipartisan support of Senators Casey and Toomey.

I support this highly qualified nominee, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my floor statement on the judge we are about to vote on be completed before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Having listened already to speak about Senator BLUNT, I also want to say my thanks and best wishes to Senator INHOFE and Senator SHELBY. I had an opportunity in the EPW Committee to speak more about my work with Senator INHOFE, but to both of you, we deeply appreciate your service to our country.

NOMINATION OF FRANCES KAY BEHM

Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of Judge F. Kay Behm, who President Biden nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Behm represents the very best of Michigan.

She and her four siblings grew up on a dairy farm in Alma, milking cows and bailing hay and driving tractors and doing all of the other tasks that life on a farm demands. During the 1980's farm crisis, her parents nearly lost their farm.

That experience changed Judge Behm forever. It led her to pursue degrees in business and law so that she could help other Michigan families.

She graduated from Alma College and the University of Michigan Law School. She worked in private practice for 15 years. In 2009, she was appointed as a trial judge in Genesee County by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

During her time as a judge, she has never forgotten her humble roots, and she has worked hard to ensure that everyone who appears before her is truly seen and heard. As a judge on the Genesee County circuit and probate courts,

Judge Behm has presided over cases related to criminal, civil, juvenile, and probate matters.

In 2011, she led a 2-year pilot program in Genesee County to hire and use social workers to improve outcomes in Child Protective Services proceedings. After the pilot program produced a positive result, Judge Behm worked with her staff to develop the intensive family support program to support parents and families involved in the child welfare system.

As a family court judge, Judge Behm has presided over approximately 1,600 bench trials and 3 jury trials. And since 2019, Judge Behm has presided over 16 bench trials and 18 jury trials.

The American Bar Association gave Judge Behm a unanimous rating of "well qualified" to serve on the Federal bench.

She also finds time to serve on the Board of Directors of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint. I have no doubt that Judge Behm will continue to serve the people of Michigan well on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and I would urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FRANCES KAY BEHM

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Behm nomination?

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 376 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Graham	Reed	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Burr	Cramer
Blackburn	Capito	Crapo
Blunt	Cassidy	
Boozman	Cornyn	Daines
Braun	Cotton	Ernst

Fischer	Lummis	Sasse
Grassley	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Hawley	Moran	Shelby
Hooven	Murkowski	Sullivan
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Thune
Inhofe	Portman	Toomey
Johnson	Risch	Tuberville
Kennedy	Romney	Wicker
Lankford	Rounds	Young
Lee	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—4

Hickenlooper	Murphy
Kelly	Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

VOTE ON HODGE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hodge nomination?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 377 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rounds
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warner
Durbin	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hooven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Hickenlooper	Murphy
Kelly	Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO ROY BLUNT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I know that Senator ROY BLUNT has already delivered his farewell remarks a short time ago. Regrettably, I was tied up in a longstanding appointment and couldn't be on the floor to hear them, but I want to say a few words about my friend from Missouri and thank him for his service to the Senate and to our Nation.

I grew up in East St. Louis, IL, just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, MO. My hometown now is Springfield, IL, and ROY BLUNT's hometown is Springfield, MO. We often joke about catching the wrong plane to St. Louis and ending up in one another's homes.

Senator BLUNT and I came from different parties, obviously. We have different ideas about a lot of things. But over the 12 years he served his State of Missouri in the Senate, he has become a friend and ally.

Managing the Mississippi River is an issue that we share. Many of the locks and dams that keep the river navigable are nearly 100 years old. For many years now, Senator BLUNT has worked with me and with the Army Corps of Engineers to come up with a plan that we call the Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program—shorthand, NESP. It will expand and modernize seven locks at the most congested locations on the upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to make sure the waterways can continue to serve as major navigation channels moving crops and other goods.

I am really grateful to ROY BLUNT for his leadership supporting biomedical research. There is a good story here. My partnership with Senator BLUNT started almost 10 years ago. I went up to the National Institutes of Health for a tour and sat down with legendary Dr. Francis Collins, who headed up the Institutes of Health. For years, NIH had limped along with flat funding and sequestration budget cuts. Inadequate funding had really hurt research at NIH. It discouraged a lot of young scientists who just couldn't count on regular funding from Congress, or they chose to maybe move back to other nations where they were born and the research funding was more predictable.

I asked Dr. Collins: What does NIH need?

He said: Just give me 5 percent real growth in our budget every year, consistently, and we will light up the scoreboard with our discoveries and cures.

So I came back and looked for ROY BLUNT. He was the leading Republican on the Appropriations Committee for the National Institutes of Health. He chaired the Labor and HHS Appropriations Subcommittee. We decided to put

together a team. The natural ally on that team was Senator PATTY MURRAY, a Democrat for the State of Washington and the lead Democrat on the HELP Committee and on the Appropriations Committee. We rounded out with two Democrats and two Republicans, the now-retired Senator Lamar Alexander who led the HELP Committee when PATTY MURRAY was ranking member, and vice versa.

We agreed on a common goal, the four of us: 5 percent real growth every year in the National Institutes of Health. In the first year working together, Senator BLUNT overdid it. He helped steer \$2 billion, or 7 percent, to the NIH.

I remember getting a phone call from Roy. It was a few weeks before Christmas. We were on break with our families, and it is uncommon for Senators to call one another under those circumstances. But he called me, and he said he had just spoken with the leaders from Barnes-Jewish Hospital, which is a major health and research institution in St. Louis. They were ecstatic about the care they were able to give their patients and research they were going to undertake because of this new level of funding.

Senator BLUNT said it was unlike any call he had ever received in his congressional career.

Then he said to me, "Durbin, we can't be one-hit wonders." And from there, we were off.

Since 2015, with the help of Senator MURRAY and others, through changes in the Presidency and through pretty divisive times, we succeeded on a bipartisan basis to keep steady, predictable funding for the National Institutes of Health as a bipartisan priority.

Over 7 years, we saw NIH funding increase by more than \$14 billion, a nearly 50-percent increase from where we started. These new investments are supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs nationwide in research institutions large and small. They are saving lives, and they will continue to do so for decades to come.

So I want to personally thank Roy BLUNT, the Senator from Missouri, for his leadership in funding this breakthrough medical research.

I also want to thank his staff for their wisdom and professionalism and calm demeanor. They consistently look for ways to work together for the common good.

Senator BLUNT honored his commitment to medical research and made a difference in America.

I said to him today as we were gathering for a tribute to the Capitol Police for defending us on January 6, I said, "Roy, the reason we all come here is to make a difference in this great nation that we live in. You have made that difference in medical research, and you will be remembered for it."

He has pursued our shared goal with decency, genuine curiosity, and a vision for the promise of medical discovery. There are people here in Amer-

ica today and around the world who are going to have better lives because of ROY BLUNT's commitment. That is a legacy which he can certainly be proud of.

Loretta and I wish him, his wife Abby, and his family all the best as they start this new chapter in life. I am sorry to see him go. I am losing a great friend and a great Senator.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions with respect to the Perez and Murphy nominations be withdrawn and that notwithstanding rule XXII, tomorrow at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Perez nomination and cloture on the Scott nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Scott nomination, at 1:30 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Scott and Murphy nominations; and that at 5 p.m., the Senate vote on cloture on the Hopkins nomination and confirmation of the Blackwell nomination; further, that the cloture motions with respect to the Montgomery-Reeves and Douglas nominations ripen following disposition of the Hopkins nomination; and finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 1202, Juan Eduardo Sanchez, of Texas, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Southwest Border Regional Commission; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Juan Eduardo Sanchez, of Texas, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Southwest Border Regional Commission. (New Position)

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sanchez nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 1188, 1196 through 1199, and 1247 through 1252; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Chrissie C. Latimore, of South Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years; Peter D. Leary, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years; McLain J. Schneider, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years; Leigha Simonton, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of four years; David C. Davis, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years; Jaime E. Esparza, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas for the term of four years; Roger B. Handberg, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida for the term of four years; Alamdar S. Hamdani, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years; Markenzy Lapointe, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years; Terry J. Burgin, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years; and Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision

stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-66, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.5 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-66

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$1.0 billion.
Other \$.5 billion.

Total \$1.5 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eighteen (18) CH-47F Helicopters

Forty-two (42) T55-GA-714A Engines (36 installed, 6 spares).

Twenty-two (22) Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (18 installed, 4 spares).

Forty-four (44) secure radios, RT-1987 (36 installed, 8 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/APR-39 Radar Warning Systems; AN/ARC-220 HF Airborne Communications Systems; AN/APX-123A IFF transponders; AN/ARN-147; AN/ARN-153; AN/APN-209; secure radios; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; repair and return; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (KS-B-ZJG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 6, 2022.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Korea—CH-47F Chinook Helicopters

The Republic of Korea (ROK) has requested to buy eighteen (18) CH-47F helicopters;

forty-two (42) T55-GA-714A engines (36 installed, 6 spares); twenty-two (22) Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (18 installed, 4 spares); and forty-four (44) secure radios, RT-1987 (36 installed, 8 spares). Also included are AN/APR-39 Radar Warning Systems; AN/ARC-220 HF Airborne Communications Systems; AN/APX-123A IFF transponders; AN/ARN-147; AN/ARN-153; AN/APN-209; secure radios; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; repair and return; storage; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$1.5 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve the ROK's capability to meet current and future threats by strengthening its Army heavy lift capability. The CH-47F will allow the ROK to conduct missions in support of bilateral operational plans which include, but are not limited to, medical evacuation, search and rescue, parachute drops, and disaster relief. The ROK will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Boeing, Ridley Park, PA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to ROK.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-66

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CH-47F Chinook Cargo Helicopter is a medium lift aircraft which includes two T55-GA-714A Engines and an advanced cockpit that features five multi-function displays, four-axis coupled flight director, digital map, and Dual Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI).

a. The AN/APR-39 Radar Warning System is a lightweight radar receiver(s) for aircraft applications that provide warning of radar-detected threats to allow appropriate evasive maneuvers and deployment of countermeasures. The system has the capability of detecting all pulse radars normally associated with hostile surface-to-air missiles, airborne intercepts, and anti-aircraft weapon systems.

b. The AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is an integrated infrared (IR) countermeasures suite utilizing five ultraviolet (UV) sensors to display accurate threat location and dispense decoys/countermeasures either automatically or under pilot/crew control to defeat incoming missile threats.

c. The AN/ARC-220 HF Airborne Communications system provides embedded Automatic Link Establishment (ALE), serial tone data modem, text messaging and GPS position reporting functions.

d. The AN/APX-123A, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponder, is a space diversity transponder and is installed on various military platforms. It provides identification, altitude, and surveillance reporting in

response to interrogations from airborne, ground-based and/or surface interrogators.

e. The AN/ARN-147 combines all VHF Omni Ranging/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) functions into one compact, lightweight, VHF navigation receiver.

f. The AN/ARN-153 is an airborne receiver-transmitter component of the Tactical Airborne Navigation (TACAN) avionics system. The AN/ARN-153(V) supports four modes of operation modes; receive, transmit, air-to-air receive, air-to-air transmit-receive.

g. The AN/APN-209 is a pulse type, absolute (radar) altimeter that provides an accurate indication of aircraft altitude over all types or terrain surfaces such as foliage, deep snow, water, and land.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Republic of Korea can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Korea.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-71, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.75 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of

this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

Transmittal No. 22-71

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment* \$3.25 billion.

Other \$0.50 billion.

Total \$3.75 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds and Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred sixteen (116) M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks.

Twelve (12) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles.

Eight (8) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges.

Six (6) M577A3 Command Vehicles.

Twenty-six (26) M1152A1 High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs).

Twenty-six (26) M1279A1 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV).

One hundred sixteen (116) M2 .50 Caliber Machine Guns.

Two hundred thirty-two (232) M240 7.62mm Machine Guns.

Six (6) AGT1500 Gas Turbine Engines.

Thirty thousand nine hundred twenty-eight (30,928) 120mm M865 Target Practice; Cone Stabilized, Discarding Sabot—Tracer (TPCSDS-T) Cartridges.

Twenty thousand eight hundred twenty-three (20,823) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP-T) Projectiles.

Sixty thousand (60,000) 120mm M829A4 Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot-Tracer (APFSDS-T) Cartridges.

Two thousand (2,000) 120mm M829A3 Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot-Tracer (APFSDS-T) Cartridges.

Fifty thousand (50,000) 120mm M829A2 Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot-Tracer (APFSDS-T) Cartridges.

Ten thousand (10,000) 120mm M830A1 High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) TP-T Cartridges.

Sixty thousand (60,000) 120mm M908 High Explosive Obstacle Reduction-Tracer (HE-OR-T) Cartridges.

Seventy thousand (70,000) 120mm M1147 High Explosive Advanced Multipurpose Round Cartridges.

Non-MDE: Also included are Forward Repair Systems; Next Generation (NG) Shop Equipment Maintenance Contact (SECM) shelters; communications equipment; GPS receivers; ammunition; Spare and Repair Parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); technical manuals and publications; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL-B-UEC, PL-B-UED, PL-B-UEE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-B-UDT.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.: Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 6, 2022.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks

The Government of Poland has requested to buy one hundred sixteen (116) M1A1

Abrams Main Battle Tanks; twelve (12) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles; eight (8) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges; six (6) M577A3 Command Vehicles; twenty-six (26) M1152A1 High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV); twenty-six (26) M1279A1 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV); one hundred sixteen (116) M2 .50 caliber machine guns; two hundred thirty-two (232) M240 7.62mm machine guns; six (6) AGT1500 gas turbine engines; thirty thousand nine hundred twenty-eight (30,928) 120mm M865 Target Practice, Cone Stabilized, Discarding Sabot—Tracer (TPCSDS-T) cartridges; twenty thousand eight hundred twenty-three (20,823) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP-T) projectiles; sixty thousand (60,000) 120mm M829A4 Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot-Tracer (APFSDS-T) cartridges; two thousand (2,000) 120mm M829A3 Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot-Tracer (APFSDS-T) cartridges; fifty thousand (50,000) 120mm M829A2 Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot-Tracer (APFSDS-T) Cartridges; ten thousand (10,000) 120mm M830A1 High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) TP-T cartridges; sixty thousand (60,000) 120mm M908 High Explosive Obstacle Reduction-Tracer (HE-OR-T) cartridges; and seventy thousand (70,000) 120mm M1147 High Explosive Advanced Multipurpose Round cartridges. Also included are Forward Repair Systems; Next Generation (NG) Shop Equipment Maintenance Contact (SECM) shelters; communications equipment; GPS receivers; ammunition; Spare and Repair Parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); technical manuals and publications; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$3.75 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that is capable of deterring adversaries and participating in NATO operations. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be AAR, Wood Dale, IL; Allison Transmissions, Birmingham, AL; Anniston Army Depot, Anniston, AL; BAE Systems, Sterling Heights, MI; General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS), Sterling Heights, MI; Honeywell, Phoenix, AZ; L3Harris, Melbourne, FL; Leonardo DRS, West Plains, MO; Lockheed Martin, Bethesda, MD; Palomar, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA; Pearson Engineering, Phoenix, AZ; and US Ordnance, McCarran, NV. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require temporary duty travel of three to five U.S. Government and contractor representatives to Poland for a duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding and training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-71

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank: The M1A1 Abrams is a first-generation American main battle tank, produced by General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) and named for General Creighton Abrams. M1A1 Abrams tank components are as follows:

a. Fire Enhancement Program (FEP): The FEP is the USMC M1A1 tank equivalent to the US Army domestic 2nd GEN FLIR. The main difference between the two is in the switch-ology, with the FEP having four (4) Search/Stare options as opposed to the six (6) available on the 2nd GEN FLIR. The FEP provides lethality upgrades to increase the M1A1 tank crew's ability to detect, recognize, and identify targets. It hosts a second-generation thermal sight (Abrams Integrated Display and Targeting System-AIDATS), a North Finding Module/Far Target Location capability displayed in sight (providing up to 50x digital magnification), and Embedded diagnostics to help troubleshoot the system. The FEP increases all-weather engagement ranges, crew situational awareness and target location accuracy.

b. Inertial Reference Unit (IRU) 9181E: The IRU is an inertial navigation system that provides accurate vehicle heading, attitude, position, elevation and navigation information to the host vehicle prime system and operators, both stationary and when moving under all operating conditions.

The Inertial Reference Unit (IRU) can be configured as a navigator (NavPAC) or as a pointing device (North Finding Module, NFM). In either configuration, the IRU contains a GPS receiver that provides vehicle location and velocities as well as satellite tracking status. These GPS observations are used by the IRU's Kalman filter to improve and enhance its performance. The GPS unit is a Ground-Based GPS Receiver Application Module (GB-GRAM) provided by Rockwell-Collins. The Miniature PLGR Engine-SAASM (MPE-S), when keyed, provides the Precise Positioning System (PPS) GPS data inputs to the system. The system is a Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) based PPS GPS. The SAASM encapsulates all classified data and signal processing into one tamper-proof module. The SAASM provides jamming and spoofing protection for US and allied forces operating in hostile environments.

c. 120mm Main Gun (Cannon) & M256 Gun Barrel: The Abrams 120mm main gun system is composed of a 120 millimeter (mm) smoothbore gun (cannon) also referred to as the M256 gun barrel; armor-piercing, fin stabilized, discarded sabot (APFSDS) and other warheads; and combustible cartridge case ammunition.

d. AGT-1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System: The use of AGT-1500 gas turbine propulsion system in the M1A1 is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology.

e. Stabilized Commander's Weapon Station—(SCWS): The SCWS provides day/night remote operation of the stabilized Commander's machine gun in closed hatch mode while enhancing Situational Awareness (provides CITV-like capability to the Tank Commander Lethality). The SCWS uses a Remote Thermal Sight (RTS) and the Abrams Integrated Display and Targeting System (AIDATS) color display to generate motorized azimuth and elevation variables.

Abrams Integrated Display and Targeting System (AIDATS) operates in conjunction with the Tank Commander Single Handle and slew-to-cue capabilities to maximize accuracy, range, and lethality on the battlefield while decreasing enemy engagement time by half. The AIDATS provides an upgraded thermal and day sight on the SCWS via a high-definition camera and permanently mounted color display.

f. Driver Vision Enhancer—Abrams (DVE-A) AN/VAS-5 and Rear View Sensor System (RVSS): The AN/VAS-5 Driver Vision Enhancer—Abrams (DVE-A) and Rear View Sensor System (RVSS) are thermal imaging systems developed for use while driving combat vehicles and tactical wheeled vehicles. The DVE-A provides night vision capability for the Abrams tank driver. RVSS provides a rear-view camera for the Abrams tank.

DVE-A and RVSS allow for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc.).

g. Global Positioning System (GPS) AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGR): Global Positioning System (GPS) capability is currently provided to Abrams tanks using the DAGR. The DAGR is a handheld GPS receiver, which utilizes Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) security. It is used for the Abrams tank, the M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle and the Joint Assault Bridge.

h. Handheld Communication Radio AN/PRC-158: The AN/PRC-158 is a Very High Frequency/Ultra High Frequency (VHF/UHF) multiband multi-channel (dual channel) radio. It is a portable, compact, tactical software-defined combat-net radio manufactured by L3/Harris Corporation. The AN/PRC-158 includes Type 1 encryption and a Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver.

i. Battle Management System (BMS): The BMS for the Poland M1A1 tank will consist of a Data Distribution Unit—Expandable (DDUX), a transceiver, and commercial software called Sitaware. It equips soldiers with secure data encryption and advanced logistics. It includes an intuitive interface with features like touch-to-zoom maps and drag-and-drop icons.

j. AN/PVS-14, Night Vision Goggles: The AN/PVS-14 Night Vision Goggle (NVG) is a lightweight, head-mounted self-contained night vision system. It is used in starlight and moonlight by individual soldiers for walking, driving vehicles, weapon firing, short-range surveillance, and such manual tasks as map reading, vehicle maintenance and administering medical aid. Each NVG consists of an objective lens assembly, image intensifier tube assembly and two eyepiece assemblies integrated into a housing. The housing is affixed to a head mount, which is held by head straps to a user's head. The assembly incorporates an infrared (IR) emitting light source, which provides illumination, when required, for close-up viewing. Eyepiece diopter adjustment is provided so the device may be worn without corrective lens.

2. M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle: The primary role of the M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lifting Extraction System (HERCULES) Combat Recovery Vehicle is recovery of the Abrams M1 Main Battle Tank. The 70-ton M88A2 Recovery Combat Vehicle is standard equipment to de-process, recover, and sustain the Abrams M1 Tank. The vehicle's role is to extricate combat vehicles that have become bogged down or entangled; and to repair or replace damaged parts in fighting vehicles while under fire. The M88A2 main winch is capable of 70-ton single line recovery; and a 140-ton 2:1 recovery when used with a 140-ton pulley. The A-frame boom of the M88A2 can lift 35 tons when used in conjunction with the spade down. The spade can be used for light earth moving and to anchor the vehicle when using the main winch. The M88A2 employs an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) to provide auxiliary electrical and hydraulic power when the main engine is not in operation,

the APU can also be used to slave start other vehicles.

a. AVDS-1790-8CR Engine Propulsion System is a unique modification to the standard piston engine family in the M60 series and the base M88A1.

b. Driver's Vision Enhancer (DVE-CV M88) is an un-cooled thermal imaging system developed for use while driving Combat Vehicles (CVs) and Tactical Wheeled Vehicles (TWVs). It allows for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc.). The DVE provides night vision targeting capabilities for armored vehicles and long-range night vision reconnaissance capability to the warfighter.

c. Handheld Communication Radio AN/PRC-158 is a multiband handheld radio. It is a portable, compact, tactical software-defined combat-net radio manufactured by L3/Harris Corporation.

3. M1110 Joint Assault Bridge: The M1110 Joint Assault Bridge (JAB) is a fully tracked armor engineer vehicle specifically designed to replace the M48/M60 AVLB, M104 Wolverine HAB and provide assault bridging capabilities to armored forces. The JAB System consists of an M1A1 Abrams chassis (with A2 heavy suspension) and a hydraulic bridge launch mechanism that will launch and retrieve the Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge MLC-115 Normal and MLC-124 Caution.

4. Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTV): The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program is a light tactical vehicle designed to replace the U.S. Military's aging High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle fleet. It was designed to close the existing gap in payload, performance, and protection to our adversaries during multi-domain operations. It has been an operationally optimal choice for the light tactical vehicle mission spectrum anywhere in the world. All JLTV mission variants include a strong balance of protection, maneuverability, speed, reliability, and combat support/combat service support capability that far surpasses any similar vehicle developed in its weight class today.

a. The JLTV is designed to be a system of system. System of systems is a "set or arrangement of systems that results when independent and useful systems are integrated into a larger system that delivers unique capabilities. The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle allows material and equipment from authorized contractors or industrial facilities used by U.S. forces in tactical operations and managed by other Program Offices that may have considered a type of classification. Other than its classified armor and ballistic protection, the JLTV is considered an unclassified tactical system. When adding integration C4ISR systems (installed or mounted), electronic countermeasures jamming devices, navigation systems or battle management systems to the JLTV, these integrated or installed system will increase the over security classification to the vehicle.

b. The JLTV's A/B Armor protection technical and test data of armor coupon, ballistic hull exploitation, Behind Armor Debris (BAD) and Full Up System Level (FUSL) Live Fire test data and protection levels to include Under Body (UB) blast, Under Wheel (UW) blast, Under Body (UB) IED, side attack (SA) IED, direct fire, and artillery enhancements are all classified technical information. The JLTV has inherent armor built into the base vehicle. It is what the US Government (USG) calls A-Kit armor. This A-Kit Inherent armor provides both opaque and transparent armor solutions to provide a 360-

degree azimuthal (i.e., all around) to include an elevated fire level of protection from a spectrum of kinetic energy/small arms fire threats with survivability enhancements to include Automatic Fire Extinguishing Protection (AFES) and structural rollover protection of 150% of the vehicle Ground Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). The B-kit includes: 1) a combined underbody deflector plate and Energy Absorbent (EA) seat mechanisms to mitigate occupant incapacity (per Annex Q) for both anti-tank land mine blast and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast and fragmentation kill mechanisms, 2) a design that provides a higher level protection against significantly larger Under Wheel (UW) blast threats that also leverages vehicle frontal and rear tear-away structural design lessons learned from OEF and OIF, 3) a direct fire B-kit that adds on to the Inherent armor/A-Kit to defeat a higher level all-around direct fire threat, side attack IED attack blast and fragmentation kill mechanisms, with additional roof armor for top attack threats that include direct fire and artillery enhancements.

c. C4ISR systems (installed or mounted), electronic countermeasures jamming devices, navigation systems or battle management systems that are integrated or installed system in the JLTV will follow the same security guidelines based on their program security classification guide.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Poland will provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Poland.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-55, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$330 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-55

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million. Other \$330 million. Total \$330 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included is the expansion of the Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement for stock replenishment supply of standard spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and replacement support for the F-16, C-130, Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF), and all other aircraft and systems or subsystems of U.S. origin, as well as other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (TW-D-KDV).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-D-KDT, TW-D-KDR, TW-D-KDS

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 6, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Aircraft Standard Spare Parts

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy the expansion of the Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement for stock replenishment supply of standard spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and replacement support for the F-16, C-130, Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF), and all other aircraft and systems or subsystems of U.S. origin, as well as other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$330 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security

of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will contribute to the sustainment of the recipient's aerial fleet, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats while providing defensive and transport capabilities critical to regional security. The proposed sale will contribute to the recipient's goal of maintaining its military capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and support into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There are no principal contractors involved with this potential sale. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to recipient.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-56, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$98 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-56

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$98 million.

Total \$98 million.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-MDE: Included is an expansion of the Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement for stock replenishment supply of non-standard spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and replacement support for the F-16, C-130, Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF), and all other aircraft and systems or subsystems of U.S. origin, as well as other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (TW-D-RAQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-D-RAP.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 6, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Aircraft Non-Standard Spare Parts

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy an expansion of the Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement for stock replenishment supply of non-standard spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and replacement support for the F-16, C-130, Indigenous Defense Fighter (IDF), and all other aircraft and systems or subsystems of U.S. origin, as well as other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$98 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will contribute to the sustainment of the recipient's aerial fleet, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats while providing defensive and transport capabilities critical to regional security. The proposed sale will contribute to the recipient's goal of maintaining its military capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and support into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There are no principal contractors involved with this potential sale. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to recipient.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSUMER REPORTS ADVOCACY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, today I rise to congratulate Consumer Reports on 50 years of advocacy in Washington, DC.

In 1936, scientists and researchers established a union of consumers to test products and give evidence-based recommendations through what was to become the iconic publication Consumer Reports. In 1972, the organization saw an opportunity to do even more for consumers and for the country at large by sharing data and insights with policymakers and making policy recommendations in support of consumer safety, fairness, and transparency in the marketplace.

Fifty years ago, a small team was established in Washington, DC, that has been working with Senators on both sides of the aisle, with our colleagues in the House of Representatives, and with staff at Federal Agencies such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Trade Commission, Federal Communications Commission, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—which Consumer Reports played a major role in helping establish in 2010.

For the past five decades, Consumer Reports has ensured that we in government hear the voices of consumers, understand their needs in the marketplace, and shape the rules and safeguards that consumers deserve.

Consumer Reports has partnered with me and others to take actions that not only help people save their hard-earned money, but also save lives. Products are safer, our standards are higher, and consumer protections have endured, thanks to the extraordinary work of this organization.

On the 50th anniversary of Consumer Reports establishing its first team of advocates in Washington, DC, I congratulate and commend Consumer Reports president and CEO Marta L. Tellado, along with the past and present staff and board of directors, all of whom have dedicated their talents and resources to creating a fair, safe, and just marketplace for all of us.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN IDAHO

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, today, I join my fellow members of the Idaho congressional delegation, Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER, in honoring the fight that so many waged for women's

suffrage by recognizing Idaho's role in securing the vote for women in Idaho 24 years before the passage of national women's suffrage legislation and by acknowledging the installation of the Idaho Women's Suffrage Commemorative Sculpture on Idaho's capitol grounds.

Notably, 126 years ago, on December 11, 1896, the Idaho State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the women's suffrage cause when it unanimously upheld the Idaho Equal Suffrage Amendment. According to historic Idaho publications, Idaho became the fourth State in the Union to enfranchise women with the right to vote and the first to do so via a State constitutional amendment. Remarkably, Idaho cemented the value and importance of women in the Gem State through a highly visible action prior to the Equal Suffrage Amendment—the adoption of the Idaho state seal—designed by a young woman named Emma Edwards. According to the Journal of the State senate of the Idaho Legislature, on March 14, 1891, the first Idaho State Legislature and Governor Norman B. Willey approved, for official use, Edwards' rendering of the Idaho State Seal—the only woman-designed State seal in the country. Idaho's all-male legislature approved Edwards' design, thus enshrining the importance of women in Idaho's past, present, and future and further validating the important role art continues to have in commemorating significant historical moments in time.

Edwards' design reflects Idaho's unlimited potential, and her depiction implies that women represent an equal half of that potential. Edwards assigned women's influence as symbolic of the ideals of justice and liberty. A woman's placement within the State seal suggests that women are integral to the protection of those ideals in Idaho. The inclusion of women in relation to Idaho's strongest and most prominent 1890s-era industries, mining, timber, and agriculture, position women not only as recipients of Idaho's bounties, but also as essential for the successful stewardship of these valuable resources.

Inspired in part by the Idaho State seal and the long-fought efforts of Idaho suffragists to enfranchise women of the Gem State and to serve as leaders in the fight to secure the vote for women nationally, the Idaho State Historical Society, in partnership with the Idaho Commission on the Arts and the Foundation for Idaho History, commissioned local sculptor Irene Deely to develop the Idaho Women's Suffrage Commemorative Sculpture. This sculpture, privately funded by the Idaho State Historical Society and the Foundation for Idaho History, embodies the spirit and legacy of the women's suffrage movement, universally represents Idaho women through time, and pays tribute to the Idaho Women 100 initiative. The sculpture's nameless woman walks metaphorically in the footsteps of those who came before her

and then hands off her shoe to the future generations who will come after her. Deely noted, "Fourteen unique styles of shoes spanning ten decades represent women through history, with a single shoe being handed off for subsequent generations to fill." The 14 shoes include a pair of contemporary moccasins made by Donzia, traditional Shoshone Bannock artisans, to represent the women of Idaho's five federally recognized Tribes. Variations of boots represent women's role in Idaho's agriculture and ranching industries and the military.

On December 12, 2022, the Idaho State Historical Society will proudly unveil the Idaho Women's Suffrage Commemorative Sculpture that celebrates the story of Idaho women past, present, and future and their impacts in the Gem State. This new symbol of the strength and significance of Idaho women will be the only female figure featured on the exterior State capitol grounds. The sculpture's placement on the grounds of the Idaho State Capitol is a statement of the importance of women to our State, especially in reference to their place in making decisions that impact us all. We commend all those involved in this important project that will serve as one more opportunity to commemorate several moments in time that speak to women's suffrage history and the resiliency, perseverance, and determination of many in the fight for a singular, focused goal.

TRIBUTE TO DOLLY PARTON

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, on November 5, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honored Dolly Parton as part of their 2022 class of inductees. Anyone familiar with Dolly's path to official "rock star" status will remember that, when she discovered the Rock Hall was considering her for a nomination, she declined. She told them she felt she hadn't earned the right to say yes.

Never has such universal outrage sprung from such universal admiration. Country fans had no time for humility. Rock fans weren't having it either—although, to be fair, humility and rock 'n' roll go together like oil and water. Even people who aren't fans of Dolly's music said that surely she was worthy of any honor bestowed by an organization whose mission is to "engage, teach, and inspire through the power of rock & roll."

By my estimation, this may have been the first time in history that a debate over a nominee to the Rock Hall has not devolved into a debate over what rock and roll is and who should and should not attempt to create it. I will not attempt to define it here today, but suffice it to say that, in six decades and over the course of more than 50 studio albums and 3,000 songs, Dolly discovered the genre's secrets and mastered them all.

Twenty years ago, Dolly famously mused, "If somebody said, 'You're

going to have to do one or the other. You're going to have to give up your music or you're going to go back to being poor.' I would go poor, totally broke, and start over and do my music. That's how much I love it."

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I thank you, Dolly, for giving so much of yourself to us. The world is a better and richer place because of your music, and we love you for it.

TRIBUTE TO GUNNERY SERGEANT MARTIN ALEMAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, December is always a time of transitions here on Capitol Hill, and it is time for Team Blackburn to recognize the transition of our defense fellow, GySgt Martin Aleman, away from the Senate and toward a bright future rising in the ranks of the Marine Corps.

On the Armed Services Committee, we spend a great deal of time considering how the decisions we make in this building will affect budgets and workload and our overall national security; but paramount to me is the effect it will have on servicemembers and their families at home and abroad.

Since day one of his fellowship, Martin has been a bottomless well of information about what it is like to actually serve in the military. His stories from his service—sometimes entertaining, sometimes sobering—helped us remember that when all is said and done, each line item in a bill, dollar authorized, and penny spent will change the lives of the brave men and women who put on the uniform.

Martin, we will miss you, but I am sure Casandra is more than ready to reclaim the time our hectic schedule stole from you this past year. I wish you the best of luck as you take the next step in your already impressive career.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT JUSTIN KRONENBERG

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I would like to recognize and thank Justin Kronenberg, my 2022 Department of Defense legislative fellow, for all of his hard work and dedication to my office. He is an active duty master sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps with almost two decades of service. The wealth of knowledge and professionalism he brought have been incredibly valuable.

Throughout the year, Justin's expertise supported me in my role as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and particularly as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Seapower. He is a skilled communicator, which has been instrumental in distilling and explaining many of the complex policy matters before the committee. North Dakota had the privilege of hosting Justin for a week as he toured our military facilities, seeing firsthand the great work being done in Grand Forks, Minot, and Fargo. North Dakota and my office are better off thanks to Justin's service.

I would also like to thank Justin's family for the shared sacrifice and service they give this Nation. I wish Justin all the best at his next assignment and in all his future endeavors. Semper Fi.

TRIBUTE TO SRDJAN SIMUNOVIC

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this month, Team Blackburn is saying goodbye to Srdjan Simunovic, who has spent 2 years with us as part of a fellowship program between my office and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is just outside of Knoxville, TN.

Most staff here on Capitol Hill dabble in politics. Even our most dedicated policy staff tend to have ambitions that extend beyond their chosen portfolio, but the position of Oak Ridge fellow is special in that it attracts people whose expertise transcends politics.

It has been such a pleasure working with Srdjan over the past 2 years and watching him open my team's eyes to the truly marvelous things Tennesseans are doing at Oak Ridge. We will miss him tremendously, but I know his wife Marina and son Thomas will be grateful to have him home full time.

Srdjan, thank you for giving 2 years of your life to Team Blackburn. We wish you all the best with what comes next.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN BOYD

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I want to honor a great public servant and Alabamian, my first chief of staff, Stephen Boyd. After nearly two decades of public service, we recently said goodbye to this integral part of our team. When you run for Congress, you learn that people are quick to give you advice—especially when you have had a lifelong career outside of politics. One tip I heard over and over was "hire a good chief of staff."

I assembled a lot of teams as a coach. I could easily tell you what makes a "good" offensive coordinator or a "good" defensive coordinator. But when I thought about what would make a "good" chief of staff, I decided I needed someone with three main qualifications: one, someone who knew the Federal Government; two, someone who knew Alabama; and three, someone who would lead with integrity. There were a lot of people who fit the first two qualifications, but the third qualification, integrity, was the most important to me. I was looking for someone who didn't just have the knowledge or skills required to oversee a Senate office and advise a Senator who was new to politics. I was looking for someone who wanted to do the right thing for the people we represent, someone who puts the service of others first. And that someone was Stephen Boyd.

To simply say Stephen was born to serve and born to lead would be accu-

rate. Stephen's grandfathers and father served in the military, and his family is dedicated to their community—but it would not tell the full picture. Stephen has purposefully led a life dedicated to constant learning so that he could be a better servant of others. A native of Birmingham, Stephen received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama. He used his God-given talents throughout his time in college to lead in many roles, including as president of university programs. Just last year, Stephen was awarded the University's Bert Bank Distinguished Service and Achievement Award, one of school's highest alumni honors. He went on to earn a law degree at Alabama, and upon graduation, Stephen felt a calling to serve—and headed to Washington, DC, to work for then-Senator Jeff Sessions from Alabama. During his time in Senator Sessions' office, Stephen held positions of increasing responsibility and served at times in policy and communications roles.

He quickly earned a reputation for being able to digest complex policy details and tell the story of the office's work in a way that resonated with Alabamians back home. This is where Stephen began to fully understand the responsibility that all of our offices have to keep our constituents informed. While Senator Sessions served on the Judiciary Committee, Stephen led the Senator's communications through some of the most crucial moments in the Senate: Supreme Court nominations and confirmations. It was also during this time that Stephen met Martha Roby. At the time, Martha was an attorney in Montgomery running for the U.S. House in an extremely competitive district. Senator Sessions asked Stephen to serve his State by going home and making sure Martha became Congresswoman Roby. Stephen, of course, agreed. He ran a campaign in what turned out to be the most expensive election in the district's history, and Martha Roby would go on to serve in the House for a decade. After helping her earn her place in Congress, Congresswoman Roby naturally asked Stephen to help build her office in DC as her chief of staff.

Again, he stepped up. It was a new challenge to start an office from scratch, but Stephen is always willing to put in the effort to find solutions. That is one of the things that stands out most about Stephen: his devotion to learning. He learns the details of institutions he works for, the Members he works for, and the constituents he works for, all in order to ensure he is consistently meeting their needs. He learned quickly how important the role of oversight is for Congress. And through all of his roles so far, he has maintained a great respect for the power of congressional oversight and what it means for the American people. In Martha Roby's office, Stephen led his team to investigate the care provided by Department of Veterans Affairs to Alabama's veterans. Under his

leadership, Stephen and I led his colleagues conducted a months-long effort to expose mismanaged care of our veterans and a scheme at some VA facilities to falsely report wait times, covering up the fact that veterans were waiting months for delayed care. The investigation resulted in top leadership changes and disciplinary action against multiple VA administrators and an audit to weed out those who were lying about the treatment of our country's veterans. That commitment to finding and exposing the truth was an invaluable quality when Stephen was asked to combine his experience on the Hill with his law degree and serve at the U.S. Department of Justice.

When President Trump tapped Senator Sessions to be his Attorney General, Stephen was appointed and confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legislative Affairs. This achievement, which very few people can claim, was the culmination of over a decade of thoughtful service and leadership—built on a deep understanding of how Congress works. In this role, Stephen expertly managed the Department of Justice's relationship with Congress through often-contentious periods. He oversaw the Department's response to countless oversight investigations, congressional and confirmation hearings, and even several congressional subpoenas.

Every Senator relies on their staffs, and I had to build one from the ground up. This was a difficult task, but I knew with Stephen Boyd at the helm, he would ensure we got the right people in the right places. A devoted Washington Nationals Fan, Stephen describes a Senate office like a baseball team. It takes everyone collectively executing their individual jobs to win the game. And Stephen made sure each member of our staff had what they need to execute their role on our team. Deliberate, decisive, and always fair, that is how our staff describes Stephen. He kept the team calm, but motivated. He never notched today's win at the expense of tomorrow's victory. There was always a new solution to consider to a problem, and tough situations tended to look better in the next morning's light.

From the very first day, Stephen instilled a culture of integrity, inspiring our team to maintain a focus on doing what is right on behalf of the people of Alabama. The only "thanks" he worried about getting was a thank you from a constituent whose life we made a little better by helping them. For these first 2 years of my term—arguably the most formative years—Stephen was at the center of every decision and every action we have taken on behalf of the State of Alabama. And one singular question was his guiding light: "Is it good for the people of Alabama?"

This was especially true when it comes to our office's work on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Stephen

traveled around the State, the country, and the world to see our military in action. He focused on how we can use our position on the Armed Services Committee to support the military footprint in Alabama and our men and women in uniform. Stephen pushed us to take a listen-first approach—to ask our military leaders what they need and to actually listen to those requests. Thanks to his leadership, we secured authorization of funding for a number of projects important for the future of our national defense capabilities. Some of these include: new barracks at Ft. Rucker, missile defense projects, the construction of more ships in Mobile, a new physics lab at Redstone Arsenal, and a new commercial vehicle inspection area at Maxwell Air Force Base. And we even secured the No. 1 request from our No. 1 commander in the Indo-Pacific region that had gone ignored for years: a missile defense system for Guam.

Stephen was also a great support as Huntsville readies to become Space Command's home in the next few years. He led the staffs of the Alabama congressional delegation to have a united front in supporting this transition and ensured our office maintains near-constant communication with the Huntsville community and defense industry to ensure a smooth transition. Once again, Stephen's approach to work—ask first, work diligently behind the scenes, and do what is right for the people—was an effective way to get things done. These are just a few examples of how Stephen's leadership had external success.

But what people won't see are the daily moments of impact he had on our office. Stephen was a trusted and reliable adviser. You ask a question, and he will shoot you straight, even if you don't like the answer. And for me, his trustworthiness and transparency were invaluable these past 2 years. He worked to ensure I had all the information, from all sides of the argument, in order to make a final decision. And at the end of the day, Stephen always had the people of Alabama in mind.

Stephen didn't spend the last two decades of his career trying to gain acclaim. He quietly worked in the background to help improve the lives of Alabamians. And I have no doubt he will continue with that sense of service in his next endeavors.

Our office will greatly miss his steady hand and calm leadership. But we know public service is not just a burden of time and effort borne by the servant. I also want to thank Stephen's wife, Breckie, for her constant support.

So, Stephen, thank you for your service to our office, the State of Alabama, and to our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK GORDON

• Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize my good friend,

Mark Gordon, who will be retiring from his position as the president of the Missouri Broadcasters Association next year after almost a decade of distinguished service. Mark has been a broadcaster for over 40 years. He started his career as a copywriter and an announcer before moving on to being a newscaster and then switching to the advertising sales side of the business. Before agreeing to helm the MBA, Mark spent 10 years running television stations in Springfield, MS, my home town, which is where we first met each other.

Mark moved to Springfield to work for KY3 in 1997, shortly after I came to Congress. In a lot of ways, our professional careers have been intertwined ever since. He has been a tireless advocate for local Missouri communities and Missouri broadcast stations and has been a trusted voice on their behalf for as long as I have known him. Whether we were working together on spectrum issues, satellite television re-authorizations, or public service campaigns, Mark has always been a person I could rely on. And between seeing him back home in Missouri at one of his members' stations or on one of his numerous visits here to Washington, DC, I have always appreciated his advice and how he always worked on behalf of the communities we both serve.

I remember the meeting in my office almost 10 years ago where Mark and his predecessor, Don Hicks, let me know that Mark would be taking over the reins of the MBA. Don Hicks had served as the head of the Missouri Broadcasters for decades and left large shoes to fill. I can honestly say that Mark not only filled those shoes but also has left his own legacy on our home State and a high bar for whoever succeeds him.

Mark's proud legacy also lives on through his son Mike, who has made significant contributions in his own right to Springfield's broadcasting industry.

I wish Mark, his wife Lucy, their children Jaime and Mike, and their entire family nothing but success in this next chapter of his life. Forty years is a long time, and he has seen, and been part of, so much change in his industry. I am proud to have been able to call him my friend for the last 25 years, and I know that whatever he decides to do next he will continue to be a tremendous asset to his community and our State.●

RECOGNIZING THE HILLIARD ART MUSEUM

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate the Hilliard Art Museum on being awarded accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. This accreditation offers an industry stamp of approval to the museum, recognizing the hard work of the Hilliard Art Museum team and the support of the Lafayette community.

The Hilliard Art Museum opened its doors in 2004. Since its beginning, Hilliard has offered immersive art education to all who visit. Students, families, and art enthusiasts come to the museum for informative collections and breathtaking galleries.

The Hilliard Art Museum was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums on November 18, 2022, after being vetted for multiple years. The accreditation process includes collections, organization, and educational assessments. With the American Alliance of Museums accreditation, Hilliard will have greater opportunities to grant funding and new opportunities to borrow art pieces from other museums and collections.

Congratulations to the Hilliard Art Museum team for this recognition of their dedication to serving the community through art education.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH ADAMS

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to honor the retirement of Judith Adams from the Alabama State Port Authority after 28 years of impactful service. Judy has played an integral role in the growth and development of the Port of Mobile, which has been one of my greatest legislative priorities. Without Judy, the Port of Mobile would not be what it is today. I would be remiss to not formally thank her for all of her hard work.

In July of 1990, Judy was hired by John Dutton, then director of the State dock system of Alabama, to work on media relations and serve as the port's representative in legislative efforts. Four years later, Judy was named the official liaison between the Federal Government and the Alabama State Port Authority, overseeing the transfer of the Navy homeport to the port.

Following her success in that role, Judy was promoted to superintendent at Middle Bay and ran the Theodore Operations. She continued to prove herself a viable asset and climbed the ranks again in 2002 to become manager of media relations.

She was a key facilitator of multiple economic development projects, including landing APM Terminals in 2008, which has been a catalyst for skyrocketing activity at the port. She also oversaw teams that recruited Aker Solutions ASA, Berg Spiral Pipe Corporation, and the ThyssenKrupp projects to Mobile. In partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Judy led community outreach efforts that resulted in a successful Record of Decision for the port's harbor deepening and widening program.

Serving the State of Alabama with such depth of knowledge, Judy's final role as the senior vice president of internal and external affairs oversaw everything she had accomplished in her wide-ranging career with the Alabama State Port Authority. With Judy's significant involvement, the Port of Mobile has become the fastest growing

gateway for containerized cargo in the United States.

Since joining the port in 1990, Judy has worked with four U.S. Senators, four Members of Alabama's First Congressional District, eight Governors, four mayors, and countless county commission, city council, and State legislative officials.

Judy has earned recognitions from GulfShipper for her outstanding leadership and commitment to excellence in international trade and transportation and the U.S. Marine Corps for her help with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit's "Training in an Urban Environment Exercise (TRUEX) XXXVII" conducted at Middle Bay Port.

A graduate of Louisiana State University and previous chair of the American Association of Port Authorities Public Relations Committee, Judy currently serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the National Waterways Conference, Alabama Germany Partnership's board of directors, Partners for Environmental Progress, and the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association.

Judy Adams helped shape a more prosperous future for the Port of Mobile and the entire State of Alabama. The decisions she made and the projects she championed will benefit our State for years to come. She leaves behind a tenacious legacy that will not be forgotten, and I will miss working with her.

I am proud to take this time to recognize her service with the Alabama State Port Authority, which will continue to reap the fruits of her labor. Her achievements and dedication to transforming the Port of Mobile have not gone unnoticed. I join Judy Adams' friends, family, and colleagues in wishing her the best of luck as she transitions into a new chapter of her life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1193) to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease, and for other purposes.

At 3:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 198. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5625. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Implementing the BEACH Act of 2000: 2022 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5626. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The EPA's Capacity to Implement Certain Provisions of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5627. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The EPA's Capacity to Implement Certain Provisions of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5628. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.250 Rev 0, 'Dedication of Commercial-Grade Digital I&C Items for Use in Nuclear Power Plants'" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5629. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 5.89 Rev 0, 'Fitness-for-Duty Programs for Commercial Power Reactor and Category I Special Nuclear Material Licenses'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5630. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fitness for Duty Drug Testing Requirements" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5631. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Emperor Penguin With Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BF59) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5632. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Palo de Rosa From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BE56) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5633. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Division of Delisting and Foreign Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Snail Darter From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife” (RIN1018-BF59) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5634. A communication from the Biologist of Recovery and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision to the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf” (RIN1018-BE52) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5635. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Revisions to Exclusionary Rules and Permit Exemptions” (FRL No. 10244-01-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5636. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Prevention of Significant Deterioration for Mecklenburg County” (FRL No. 9377-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5637. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Colorado; Addressing Remanded Portions of the Previously Approved Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9782-03-R8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5638. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; Georgia; Redesignation of the Atlanta, Georgia 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment” (FRL No. 10107-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5639. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Source Testing and Monitoring” (FRL No. 10151-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5640. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Restoring Protective Human Health Criteria in Washington” ((RIN2040-AG21) (FRL No. 7235.1-02-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5641. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Right-To-Know; Adopting 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting” ((RIN2070-AL09) (FRL No. 9529-02-OCSP)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5642. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Colorado; Reg 3 NSR and APEN Updates” (FRL No. 9624-02-R8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5643. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Mississippi; Revision of Excess Emissions Provisions” (FRL No. 9911-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5644. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Control of Air Pollution from Aircraft Engines: Emissions Standards and Test Procedures” ((RIN2060-AU69) (FRL No. 7558-02-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5645. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Delegation of New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the States of Arizona and California” (FRL No. 9400-04-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5646. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Paint Stripping and Miscellaneous Surface Coating Operations at Area Sources Technology Review” ((RIN2060-AV34) (FRL No. 8339-02-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5647. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Maryland; Clean Data Determination and Approval of Select Attainment Plan Elements for the Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County, MD Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area” (FRL No. 10364-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5648. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5649. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Data Book”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5650. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Department of Labor’s 2021 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5651. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Elimination of Customs Broker District Permit Fee” (RIN1515-AE43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5652. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modernization of the Customs Broker Regulations” (RIN1651-AB16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5653. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revenue Procedure: Special Procedures for Certain Eligible Taxpayers to File a Qualified Amended Return After the Opening of an Audit” (Rev. Proc. 2022-39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5654. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination Letter Program for Individually Designed Qualified and Section 403(b) Plans” (Rev. Proc. 2022-40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5655. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5656. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report certifying for fiscal year 2022 that no United Nations agency or United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5657. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5658. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5659. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2022-0156-2022-0172); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5660. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Institutional Eligibility Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended; Student Assistance General Provisions; Federal Perkins Loan Program; Federal Family Education Loan Program; and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program" (RIN1840-AD53) (RIN1840-AD59) (RIN1840-AD70) (RIN1840-AD71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5661. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities, Requirements, and Definitions—School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5662. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities, Requirements, and Definitions—Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program" (RIN1810-AB67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5663. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pell Grants for Prison Education Programs; Determining the Amount of Federal Education Assistance Funds Received by Institutions of Higher Education (90/10); Change in Ownership and Change in Control" (RIN1840-AD54) (RIN1840-AD55) (RIN1840-AD66) (RIN1840-AD69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5664. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Submission of Food and Drug Administration Import Data in the Automated Commercial Environment for Veterinary Devices" (RIN0910-AH66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5665. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives

Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5666. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Information" (RIN0910-AH69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5667. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fourteenth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2021"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5668. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2022 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5669. A joint communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Annual Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3381. A bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-232).

S. 3773. A bill to authorize the leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (Rept. No. 117-233).

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3789. A bill to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-234).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3388. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 5188. A bill to provide consumer protections for students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5189. A bill to address applications for deposit insurance submitted by industrial banks to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROMNEY:

S. 5190. A bill to end the treatment of the People's Republic of China as a developing nation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 5191. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KING:

S. 5192. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the credit for biomass stoves and boilers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5193. A bill to enable incarcerated persons to petition a Federal court for a second look at sentences longer than 10 years, where the person is not a danger to the safety of any person or the community and has shown they are ready for reentry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5194. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain increases in payments for physicians services under the Medicare program through 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 859. A resolution designating December 17, 2022, as "National Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 860. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of November 14 through November 18, 2022, as "National Family Service Learning Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 861. A resolution remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 190

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 868

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 868, a bill to

amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title and waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals with Huntington's disease.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1512, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 3663

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3663, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 3766

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3766, a bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3909, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4120

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4120, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 4188

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4188, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4416

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4416, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to quali-

fied elementary and secondary students.

S. 4441

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4441, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 4587

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4587, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

S. 4597

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4597, a bill to allow individuals with disabilities to campaign for elected office without losing access to federally supported benefits.

S. 4709

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4709, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to amend regulations to allow for certain packers to have an interest in market agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 4877

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4877, a bill to amend Public Law 91-378 to authorize activities relating to Civilian Conservation Centers, and for other purposes.

S. 4986

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4986, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes.

S. 5112

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5112, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 5130

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5130, a bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to appropriately limit attorney's fees.

S. 5135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 5135, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring an issuer to disclose information relating to certain greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 47

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, supra.

S. RES. 472

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 472, a resolution reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Dominican Republic and advancing opportunities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 859—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 17, 2022, AS “NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 859

Whereas, 31 years before the date of adoption of this resolution, the Wreaths Across America wreath project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December, of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir veterans' remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the 31 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 14,400,000 wreaths have been sent to various locations, including national cemeteries and veterans' memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to “Remember, Honor, and Teach”, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans' cemeteries; and

(3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans' parade between the States of Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;

(2) honoring those who serve in the Armed Forces; and

(3) teaching the next generation of children about the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by all in the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, approximately 2,400,000 veterans' remembrance wreaths were delivered to 3,137 locations across the United States;

Whereas, in December 2022, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will be continued by—

(1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and

(2) other patriotic escort units, including—

(A) motorcycle units;

(B) law enforcement units; and

(C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans' wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 3,400 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 18, 2021, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas, on December 17, 2022, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans' wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 17, 2022, as "National Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the millions of volunteers and donors involved in the worthy tradition of the Wreaths Across America project; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, members of the Armed Forces, their family members have made, and continue to make, for the United States, a great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 860—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14 THROUGH NOVEMBER 18, 2022, AS "NATIONAL FAMILY SERVICE LEARNING WEEK"

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 860

Whereas family service learning is a method under which children and families learn and solve problems together in a multi-generational approach with active participation in thoughtfully organized service that—

(1) is conducted in, and meets the needs of, their communities;

(2) is focused on children and families solving community issues together;

(3) requires the application of college and career readiness skills by children and relevant workforce training skills by adults; and

(4) is coordinated between the community and an elementary school, a secondary school, an institution of higher education, or a family community service program;

Whereas family service learning—

(1) is multi-generational learning that involves parents, children, caregivers, and extended family members in shared learning experiences in physical and digital environments;

(2) is integrated into and enhances the academic achievement of children or the educational components of a family service program in which families may be enrolled; and

(3) promotes skills (such as investigation, planning, and preparation), action, reflection, the demonstration of results, and sustainability;

Whereas family service learning has been shown to have positive multi-generational effects and encourages families to invest in their communities to improve economic and societal well-being;

Whereas, through family service learning, children and families have the opportunity to solve community issues and learn together, thereby enabling the development of life and career skills, such as flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility;

Whereas family service learning activities provide opportunities for families to improve essential skills, such as organization, research, planning, reading and writing, technological literacy, teamwork, and sharing;

Whereas families participating together in service are afforded quality time learning about their communities;

Whereas adults engaged in family service learning serve as positive role models for their children;

Whereas family service learning projects enable families to build substantive connections with their communities, develop a stronger sense of self-worth, experience a reduction in social isolation, and improve parenting skills;

Whereas family service learning has added benefits for English learners by helping individuals and families to—

(1) feel more connected with their communities; and

(2) practice language skills;

Whereas family service learning is particularly important for at-risk families because family service learning—

(1) provides opportunities for leadership and civic engagement; and

(2) helps build the capacity to advocate for the needs of children and families; and

Whereas the value that parents place on civic engagement and relationships within the community has been shown to transfer to children who, in turn, replicate important values, such as responsibility, empathy, and caring for others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of November 14 through November 18, 2022, as "National Family Service Learning Week" to raise public awareness about the importance of family service learning, family literacy, community service, and multi-generational learning experiences;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support family service learning and community development programs;

(3) recognizes the importance that family service learning plays in cultivating family

literacy, civic engagement, and community investment; and

(4) calls upon public, private, and nonprofit entities to support family service learning opportunities to aid in the advancement of families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 861—REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA AND COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 861

Whereas December 6, 2022, the 3-year anniversary of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this preamble as the "terrorist attack"), is a day of commemoration for those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, during the terrorist attack, including—

(1) Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, Alabama;

(2) Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham of St. Petersburg, Florida; and

(3) Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters of Richmond Hill, Georgia;

Whereas the 3 servicemembers who died in the terrorist attack were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart;

Whereas the terrorist who committed the terrorist attack was a Saudi Arabian foreign military student who had been radicalized and established contacts with Al Qaeda operatives prior to attending flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola security forces and Escambia County, Florida, law enforcement officers took decisive action to end the terrorist attack and have rightly earned the praises and awards bestowed upon them;

Whereas 2 civilians were awarded the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Medal for Valor for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 individuals were awarded the Purple Heart, or the law enforcement equivalent, for injuries sustained during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 9 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 law enforcement officers were awarded the Medal of Valor for their actions taken during the terrorist attack; and

Whereas December 6, 2022, marks 3 years since the lives of 3 military personnel were tragically cut short by the egregious act of terrorism at Naval Air Station Pensacola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this resolution as the "terrorist attack");

(2) commemorates in sorrow the servicemembers and civilians who lost their lives, or who were injured, and the harm caused to the surrounding community, as a result of the terrorist attack;

(3) remembers Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham, and Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters, who were killed in the terrorist attack;

(4) expresses gratitude for the heroic actions that the civilians, uniformed personnel, and law enforcement performed during and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack;

(5) lauds the decision to give medals and awards to the law enforcement officers, uniformed servicemembers, and civilians who responded heroically on the morning of December 6, 2019; and

(6) commends the efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense to enhance security at military installations to ensure that the tragedy represented by the terrorist attack is never repeated.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6505. Ms. HASSAN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7077, to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

SA 6506. Ms. HASSAN (for Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. TILLIS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3198, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise any rules necessary to enable issuers of index-linked annuities to register on a form tailored specifically to registered index-linked annuities, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6505. Ms. HASSAN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7077, to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act”.

SEC. 2. FIRE SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 38. INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a major fire, the Administrator may send incident investigators, which may include safety specialists, fire protection engineers, codes and standards experts, researchers, and fire training specialists, to the site of the fire to conduct a fire safety investigation as described in subsection (b).

“(b) INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—A fire safety investigation conducted under this section—

“(1) shall be conducted in coordination and cooperation with appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, including Federal agencies that are authorized to investigate any fire; and

“(2) shall examine the previously determined cause and origin of the fire and assess broader systematic matters to include use of codes and standards, demographics, structural characteristics, smoke and fire dynamics (movement) during the event, and costs of associated injuries and deaths.

“(c) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), upon concluding any fire safety investigation under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(A) issue a public report to the appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities on the findings of such investigation; or

“(B) collaborate with another investigating Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial agency on the report of that agency.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—If the Administrator, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities determines that issuing a report under paragraph (1) would have a negative impact on a potential or ongoing criminal investigation, the Administrator is not required to issue such report.

“(3) CONTENTS.—Each public report issued under paragraph (1) shall include recommendations on—

“(A) any other buildings with similar characteristics that may bear similar fire risks;

“(B) improving tactical response to similar fires;

“(C) improving civilian safety practices;

“(D) assessing the costs and benefits to the community of adding fire safety features; and

“(E) how to mitigate the causes of the fire.

“(d) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—In addition to a fire safety investigation conducted pursuant to subsection (a), provided doing so would not have a negative impact on a potential or ongoing criminal investigation, the Administrator may send fire investigators to conduct a fire safety investigation at the site of any fire with unusual or remarkable context that results in losses less severe than those occurring as a result of a major fire, in coordination and cooperation with the appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, including Federal agencies that are authorized to investigate the fire.

“(e) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(1) affect or otherwise diminish the authorities or the mandates vested in other Federal agencies;

“(2) grant the Administrator authority to investigate a major fire for the purpose of an enforcement action or criminal prosecution; or

“(3) require the Administrator to send investigators or issue a report for a major fire when the Administrator, in coordination and cooperation with the appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, determine that it may compromise a potential or ongoing criminal investigation.

“(f) MAJOR FIRE DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘major fire’ shall have the meaning given such term under regulations to be issued by the Administrator.”.

SA 6506. Ms. HASSAN (for Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. TILLIS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3198, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise any rules necessary to enable issuers of index-linked annuities to register on a form tailored specifically to registered index-linked annuities, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Registration for Index-Linked Annuities Act”.

SEC. 2. PARITY FOR REGISTERED INDEX-LINKED ANNUITIES REGARDING REGISTRATION RULES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(2) INVESTMENT COMPANY.—The term “investment company” has the meaning given

the term in section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3).

(3) MARKET VALUE ADJUSTMENT.—The term “market value adjustment” means, with respect to a registered index-linked annuity, after an early withdrawal or contract discontinuance—

(A) an adjustment to the value of that annuity based on calculations using a predetermined formula; or

(B) a change in interest rates (or other factor, as determined by the Commission) that apply to that annuity.

(4) PURCHASER.—The term “purchaser” means a purchaser of a registered index-linked annuity.

(5) REGISTERED INDEX-LINKED ANNUITY.—The term “registered index-linked annuity” means an annuity—

(A) that is deemed to be a security;

(B) that is registered with the Commission in accordance with section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77e);

(C) that is issued by an insurance company that is subject to the supervision of—

(i) the insurance commissioner or bank commissioner of any State; or

(ii) any agency or officer performing like functions as a commissioner described in clause (i);

(D) that is not issued by an investment company; and

(E) the returns of which—

(i) are based on the performance of a specified benchmark index or rate (or a registered exchange traded fund that seeks to track the performance of a specified benchmark index or rate); and

(ii) may be subject to a market value adjustment if amounts are withdrawn before the end of the period during which that market value adjustment applies.

(6) SECURITY.—The term “security” has the meaning given the term in section 2(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)).

(b) RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall propose, and, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall prepare and finalize, new or amended rules, as appropriate, to establish a new form in accordance with paragraph (2) on which an issuer of a registered index-linked annuity may register that registered index-linked annuity, subject to conditions the Commission determines appropriate, which may include requiring the issuer to take the steps described in section 240.12h-7(e) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, with respect to the registered index-linked annuity.

(2) DESIGN OF FORM.—In developing the form required to be established under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) design the form to ensure that a purchaser using the form receives the information necessary to make knowledgeable decisions, taking into account—

(i) the availability of information;

(ii) the knowledge and sophistication of that class of purchasers;

(iii) the complexity of the registered index-linked annuity; and

(iv) any other factor the Commission determines appropriate;

(B) engage in investor testing; and

(C) incorporate the results of the testing required under subparagraph (B) in the design of the form, with the goal of ensuring that key information is conveyed in terms that a purchaser is able to understand.

(c) TREATMENT IF RULES NOT PREPARED AND FINALIZED IN A TIMELY MANNER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, as of the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission has failed to prepare

and finalize the rules required under subsection (b)(1), any registered index-linked annuity may be registered on the form described in section 239.17b of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(2) **PREPARATION.**—A registration described in paragraph (1) shall be prepared pursuant to applicable provisions of the form described in that paragraph.

(3) **TERMINATION.**—This subsection shall terminate upon the establishment by the Commission of the form described in subsection (b).

(d) **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

(1) limit the authority of the Commission to—

(A) determine the information to be requested in the form described in subsection (b); or

(B) extend the eligibility for the form described in subsection (b) to a product that is similar to, but is not, a registered index-linked annuity; or

(2) preempt any State law, regulation, rule, or order.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. HASSAN, Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BLUNT, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeremy Pinson, a military fellow from my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Ms. HASSAN, Madam President, I understand that the Chair has an announcement to make.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication regarding the resignation of Senator SASSE. Without objection, the letter will be printed in the RECORD and spread upon the Journal.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2022.
Governor PETE RICKETTS,
Office of the Governor,
Lincoln, NE.

DEAR GOVERNOR RICKETTS: I will resign as Senator from the State of Nebraska effective January 8, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. EST. It has been a great honor to serve the people of Nebraska in the U.S. Senate these last eight years. I am confident that Governor-Elect Pillen will appoint someone who will serve Nebraskans well in Washington.

Sincerely,

BEN SASSE,
U.S. Senator.

EMPOWERING THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION ACT

Ms. HASSAN, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 546, H.R. 7077.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7077) to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HASSAN, I ask unanimous consent that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 6505), in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act".

SEC. 2. FIRE SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 38. INVESTIGATION AUTHORITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a major fire, the Administrator may send incident investigators, which may include safety specialists, fire protection engineers, codes and standards experts, researchers, and fire training specialists, to the site of the fire to conduct a fire safety investigation as described in subsection (b).

"(b) INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—A fire safety investigation conducted under this section—

"(1) shall be conducted in coordination and cooperation with appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, including Federal agencies that are authorized to investigate any fire; and

"(2) shall examine the previously determined cause and origin of the fire and assess broader systematic matters to include use of codes and standards, demographics, structural characteristics, smoke and fire dynamics (movement) during the event, and costs of associated injuries and deaths.

"(c) REPORT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), upon concluding any fire safety investigation under this section, the Administrator shall—

"(A) issue a public report to the appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities on the findings of such investigation; or

"(B) collaborate with another investigating Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial agency on the report of that agency.

"(2) EXCEPTION.—If the Administrator, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities determines that issuing a report under paragraph (1) would have a negative impact on a potential or ongoing criminal investigation, the Administrator is not required to issue such report.

"(3) CONTENTS.—Each public report issued under paragraph (1) shall include recommendations on—

"(A) any other buildings with similar characteristics that may bear similar fire risks;

"(B) improving tactical response to similar fires;

"(C) improving civilian safety practices;

"(D) assessing the costs and benefits to the community of adding fire safety features; and

"(E) how to mitigate the causes of the fire.

"(d) DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY.—In addition to a fire safety investigation conducted pursuant to subsection (a), provided doing so would not have a negative impact on a potential or ongoing criminal investigation, the Administrator may send fire investigators to conduct a fire safety investigation at the site of any fire with unusual or remarkable context that results in losses less severe than those occurring as a result of a major fire, in coordination and cooperation with the appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, including Federal agencies that are authorized to investigate the fire.

"(e) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

"(1) affect or otherwise diminish the authorities or the mandates vested in other Federal agencies;

"(2) grant the Administrator authority to investigate a major fire for the purpose of an enforcement action or criminal prosecution; or

"(3) require the Administrator to send investigators or issue a report for a major fire when the Administrator, in coordination and cooperation with the appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, determine that it may compromise a potential or ongoing criminal investigation.

"(f) MAJOR FIRE DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term 'major fire' shall have the meaning given such term under regulations to be issued by the Administrator."

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 7077), as amended, was passed.

REGISTRATION FOR INDEX-LINKED ANNUITIES ACT

Ms. HASSAN, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3198 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3198) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise any rules necessary to enable issuers of index-linked annuities to register on a form tailored specifically to registered index-linked annuities, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Smith-Tillis substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 6506), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Registration for Index-Linked Annuities Act".

SEC. 2. PARITY FOR REGISTERED INDEX-LINKED ANNUITIES REGARDING REGISTRATION RULES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(2) INVESTMENT COMPANY.—The term "investment company" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3).

(3) MARKET VALUE ADJUSTMENT.—The term "market value adjustment" means, with respect to a registered index-linked annuity, after an early withdrawal or contract discontinuance—

(A) an adjustment to the value of that annuity based on calculations using a predetermined formula; or

(B) a change in interest rates (or other factor, as determined by the Commission) that apply to that annuity.

(4) PURCHASER.—The term "purchaser" means a purchaser of a registered index-linked annuity.

(5) REGISTERED INDEX-LINKED ANNUITY.—The term "registered index-linked annuity" means an annuity—

(A) that is deemed to be a security;

(B) that is registered with the Commission in accordance with section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77e);

(C) that is issued by an insurance company that is subject to the supervision of—

(i) the insurance commissioner or bank commissioner of any State; or

(ii) any agency or officer performing like functions as a commissioner described in clause (i);

(D) that is not issued by an investment company; and

(E) the returns of which—

(i) are based on the performance of a specified benchmark index or rate (or a registered exchange traded fund that seeks to track the performance of a specified benchmark index or rate); and

(ii) may be subject to a market value adjustment if amounts are withdrawn before the end of the period during which that market value adjustment applies.

(6) SECURITY.—The term "security" has the meaning given the term in section 2(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)).

(b) RULES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall propose, and, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall prepare and finalize, new or amended rules, as appropriate, to establish a new form in accordance with paragraph (2) on which an issuer of a registered index-linked annuity may register that registered index-linked annuity, subject to conditions the Commission determines appropriate, which may include requiring the issuer to take the steps described in section 240.12h-7(e) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, with respect to the registered index-linked annuity.

(2) DESIGN OF FORM.—In developing the form required to be established under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) design the form to ensure that a purchaser using the form receives the information necessary to make knowledgeable decisions, taking into account—

(i) the availability of information;

(ii) the knowledge and sophistication of that class of purchasers;

(iii) the complexity of the registered index-linked annuity; and

(iv) any other factor the Commission determines appropriate;

(B) engage in investor testing; and

(C) incorporate the results of the testing required under subparagraph (B) in the design of the form, with the goal of ensuring that key information is conveyed in terms that a purchaser is able to understand.

(c) TREATMENT IF RULES NOT PREPARED AND FINALIZED IN A TIMELY MANNER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, as of the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission has failed to prepare and finalize the rules required under subsection (b)(1), any registered index-linked annuity may be registered on the form described in section 239.17b of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(2) PREPARATION.—A registration described in paragraph (1) shall be prepared pursuant to applicable provisions of the form described in that paragraph.

(3) TERMINATION.—This subsection shall terminate upon the establishment by the Commission of the form described in subsection (b).

(d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

(1) limit the authority of the Commission to—

(A) determine the information to be requested in the form described in subsection (b); or

(B) extend the eligibility for the form described in subsection (b) to a product that is similar to, but is not, a registered index-linked annuity; or

(2) preempt any State law, regulation, rule, or order.

The bill (S. 3198), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

IRAN HOSTAGES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2607.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2607) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2607) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2607

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Iran Hostages Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 20, 1981, United States diplomats, military personnel, and civilians were released after being held hostage for 444 days by militant student supporters of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in a violation of international law. The individuals were taken from the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, and the ordeal came to be known as the Iran Hostage Crisis.

(2) The hostages were subjected to intense physical and psychological torture throughout their captivity, such as mock executions, beatings, solitary confinement, and inhospitable living conditions.

(3) Throughout their time held, the hostages were routinely told to denounce the United States and, when they refused, they were tortured, but remained strong in their spirit.

(4) One hostage wrote "Viva la roja, blanco, y azul", which translates to "Long live the red, white, and blue", on the wall of his cell as a reminder of the values he swore to protect.

(5) The hostages showed extraordinary courage by continually engaging in acts of resistance against their captors, such as by refusing to sign condemnations of the United States, in the face of gross violations of their human rights.

(6) Many of the hostages still experience trauma as a result of the events of the crisis and deserve to have their suffering recognized.

(7) While, as of the date of enactment of this Act, 35 of the hostages are living, it is important that the people of the United States reflect on the resilience and strength of the hostages, which serve as an example to current generations.

(8) The people of the United States should—

(A) acknowledge the hostages as heroes who—

(i) experienced great tribulation; and

(ii) endured, so that the people of the United States may know the blessing of living in the United States; and

(B) strive to demonstrate the values shown by the hostages.

(9) On January 22, 1981, President Jimmy Carter met with the hostages in West Germany and stated the following: "One of the

acts in my life which has been the most moving and gratifying in meeting with and discussing the future and the past with the now liberated Americans who were held hostage in Iran for so long. I pointed out to them that, since their capture by the Iranian terrorists and their being held in this despicable act of savagery, that the American people's hearts have gone out to them and the Nation has been united as perhaps never before in history and that the prayers that have gone up from the people throughout the world to God for their safety have finally been answered."

(10) On January 28, 1981, when welcoming the hostages home, President Ronald Reagan stated the following: "You've come home to a people who for 444 days suffered the pain of your imprisonment, prayed for your safety, and most importantly, shared your determination that the spirit of free men and women is not a fit subject for barter. You've represented under great stress the highest traditions of public service. Your conduct is symbolic of the millions of professional diplomats, military personnel, and others who have rendered service to their country."

(11) During the 444 days the brave hostages were held, the rest of the United States held its breath, waiting for news of the hostages. The United States hoped and prayed together, as one, for the hostages' safe return.

(12) Bruce Laingen, who served as United States Ambassador to Iran from 1979 to 1980 and was the highest ranking diplomat held hostage, summed up the experience by saying the following: "Fifty-three Americans who will always have a love affair with this country and who join with you in a prayer of thanksgiving for the way in which this crisis has strengthened the spirit and resilience and strength that is the mark of a truly free society." It is now the responsibility of the people of the United States to honor the spirit, resilience, and strength that the hostages displayed during their 444 days of imprisonment.

(13) Now, more than 4 decades later, the United States continues to honor the hostages. The recipients of the award bestowed by this Act are heroes in every sense of the word. They are role models who wore their pride in the United States with esteem and have allowed for subsequent generations to appreciate the blessing of living in the United States. Today, as we mark 40 years since their release, the people of the United States acknowledge their endurance, strength, and contributions to seeing a more peaceful world. The hostages suffered for the United States and now it is the duty of the United States to recognize them for it.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "hostage" means a person of the United States who was taken captive on November 4, 1979, in Tehran, Iran, at the United States embassy and released on—

- (1) July 11, 1980; or
- (2) January 20, 1981.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the 53 hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis, in recognition of their bravery and endurance throughout their captivity, which started on November 4, 1979, and lasted until January 21, 1981.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined

by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for loan, as appropriate, so that the medal may be displayed elsewhere.

SEC. 5. BRONZE DUPLICATE MEDALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 4, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate medals under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.

There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

SEC. 7. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 263, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 263) to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, today I would like to enter into a colloquy with the senior Senator from Connecticut to discuss the Big Cat Public Safety Act. Section 3 of the bill amends title 16 of the U.S. Code, section 3372(e) by striking the entire subsection and inserting new prohibitions on private ownership of big cats, reg-

istration requirements for existing private owners, and new regulation parameters for facilities that display these animals to the public.

Striking all of subsection (e) to insert the bill's proposed language eliminates a standing protection of State authority to enact and enforce their own laws in this area. Section §3372(e)(4) currently states that "nothing in this subsection preempts or supersedes the authority of a state to regulate wildlife species within that state." By striking this protection against Federal preemption, Federal authorities and regulators would have the ability to supplant any State action or policy unless there are other sections of U.S. Code that protect the rights of States.

Senator BLUMENTHAL, do you understand this to be the case?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Yes, I do.

Mr. LANKFORD. In light of this protection of State authority being eliminated from statute by the Big Cat Public Safety Act, I would like to clarify that there are existing protections that apply to the entire chapter in which this bill amends. Title 16 of U.S. Code section 3378(a) states that "nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent the several states or Indian tribes from making or enforcing laws or regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter."

While this preemption provision is not nearly as clear as the one that will be removed by the Big Cat Public Safety Act, it is our intention and understanding that it will preserve the long-standing policy that the provisions being amended by this bill will not preempt or supersede the authority of a State to regulate wildlife species within that State.

Senator BLUMENTHAL, do you agree that State authority should and will be protected on this issue as it has historically been?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Yes, I do.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madame President, I thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for helping clarify the intent and effects of the Big Cat Public Safety Act on this matter and would like to reiterate that we are not negating State authority with these changes within the bill. The Big Cat Public Safety Act will close the loopholes of private ownership that now exist and fill the gaps that exist within State laws where such prohibitions do not currently exist.

For States that have existing authorities addressing this area or any State that may enact and enforce such authorities in the future, Federal Agencies and authorities will not preempt or supersede them unless expressly authorized by that State.

Now, with this clarification and a commitment from the senior Senator from Connecticut to help include language in an upcoming authorization bill to affirm the clarifications made today, I will lift my hold on this bill.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. HASSAN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 263) was passed.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNLEASHING AMERICAN INNOVATORS ACT OF 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 571, S. 2773.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2773) to amend the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to address satellite offices of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the Office.

(2) **OFFICE.**—The term “Office” means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(3) **PATENT PRO BONO PROGRAMS.**—The term “patent pro bono programs” means the programs established pursuant to section 32 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 2 note).

(4) **SOUTHEAST REGION OF THE UNITED STATES.**—The term “southeast region of the United States” means the area of the United States that is comprised of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

SEC. 3. SATELLITE OFFICES.

(a) **AMENDMENTS TO PURPOSE AND REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.**—Section 23 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “increase outreach activities to”; and

(ii) by inserting after “Office” the following: “, including by increasing outreach activities, including to individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) enhance patent examiner and administrative patent judge retention, including patent ex-

aminers and administrative patent judges from economically, geographically, and demographically diverse backgrounds.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) with respect to each office established after January 1, 2023, shall consider the proximity of the office to anchor institutions (such as hospitals primarily serving veterans and institutions of higher education), individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings.”.

(b) **SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish a satellite office of the Office in the southeast region of the United States.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—When selecting a site for the office required under paragraph (1), the Director shall consider the following:

(A) The number of patent-intensive industries located near the site.

(B) How many research-intensive institutions, including institutions of higher education, are located near the site.

(C) The State and local government legal and business frameworks that support intellectual property-intensive industries located near the site.

(c) **STUDY ON ADDITIONAL SATELLITE OFFICES.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall complete a study to determine whether additional satellite offices of the Office are necessary to—

(1) achieve the purposes described in section 23(b) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 1 note), as amended by this section; and

(2) increase participation in the patent system by individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings.

SEC. 4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish not fewer than 4 community outreach offices throughout the United States.

(2) **RESTRICTION.**—No community outreach office established under paragraph (1) may be located in the same State as—

(A) the principal office of the Office; or

(B) any satellite office of the Office.

(3) **REQUIREMENT FOR NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall establish not less than 1 community outreach office under this subsection in the northern New England region, which shall serve the States of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In determining the location for the office required to be established under subparagraph (A), the Director shall give preference to a location in which—

(i) as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(I) there is located not less than 1 public institution of higher education and not less than 1 private institution of higher education; and

(II) there are located not more than 15 registered patent attorneys, according to data from the Office of Enrollment and Discipline of the Office; and

(ii) according to data from the 2012 Survey of Business Owners conducted by the Bureau of the Census, less than 45 percent of the firms (as that term is defined for the purposes of that Survey) are owned by women, minorities, or veterans.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the community outreach offices established under subsection (a) are to—

(1) further achieve the purposes described in section 23(b)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 1 note), as amended by this Act;

(2) partner with local community organizations, institutions of higher education, research institutions, and businesses to create community-based programs that—

(A) provide education regarding the patent system; and

(B) promote the career benefits of innovation and entrepreneurship; and

(3) educate prospective inventors, including individual inventors, small businesses, veterans, low-income populations, students, rural populations, and any geographic group of innovators that the Director may determine to be underrepresented in patent filings, about all public and private resources available to potential patent applicants, including the patent pro bono programs.

SEC. 5. UPDATES TO THE PATENT PRO BONO PROGRAMS.

(a) **STUDY AND UPDATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall—

(A) complete a study of the patent pro bono programs; and

(B) submit the results of the study required under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **SCOPE OF THE STUDY.**—The study required under paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(A) assess—

(i) whether the patent pro bono programs, as in effect on the date on which the study is commenced, are sufficiently serving prospective and existing participants;

(ii) whether the patent pro bono programs are sufficiently funded to serve prospective participants;

(iii) whether any participation requirement of the patent pro bono programs, including any requirement to demonstrate knowledge of the patent system, serves as a deterrent for prospective participants;

(iv) the degree to which prospective inventors are aware of the patent pro bono programs;

(v) what factors, if any, deter attorneys from participating in the patent pro bono programs;

(vi) whether the patent pro bono programs would be improved by expanding those programs to include non-attorney advocates; and

(vii) any other issue the Director determines appropriate; and

(B) make recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as may be appropriate.

(b) **USE OF RESULTS.**—Upon completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Director shall work with the Pro Bono Advisory Council, the operators of the patent pro bono programs, and intellectual property law associations across the United States to update the patent pro bono programs in response to the findings of the study.

(c) **EXPANSION OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall work with and support, including by providing financial support to, existing patent pro bono programs and intellectual property law associations across the United States to expand eligibility for the patent pro bono programs to an individual living in a household, the gross household income of which is not more than 400 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to prevent a patent pro bono program from electing to establish a higher eligibility level, as compared to the level described in that paragraph.

SEC. 6. PRE-PROSECUTION ASSESSMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish a pilot program to assist first-time prospective patent applicants in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of a potential patent application submitted by such a prospective applicant.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing the pilot program required under subsection (a), the Director shall establish—

(1) a notification process to notify a prospective patent applicant seeking an assessment described in that subsection that any assessment so provided may not be considered an official ruling of patentability from the Office;

(2) conditions to determine eligibility for the pilot program, taking into consideration available resources;

(3) reasonable limitations on the amount of time to be spent providing assistance to each individual first-time prospective patent applicant;

(4) procedures for referring prospective patent applicants to legal counsel, including through the patent pro bono programs; and

(5) procedures to protect the confidentiality of the information disclosed by prospective patent applicants.

SEC. 7. FEE REDUCTION FOR SMALL AND MICRO ENTITIES.

(a) **TITLE 35.**—Section 41(h) of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “50 percent” and inserting “60 percent”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “75 percent” and inserting “80 percent”.

(b) **FALSE CERTIFICATIONS.**—Title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 41, by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **PENALTY FOR FALSE ASSERTIONS.**—In addition to any other penalty available under law, an entity that is found to have falsely asserted entitlement to a fee reduction under this section shall be subject to a fine, to be determined by the Director, the amount of which shall be not less than 3 times the amount that the entity failed to pay as a result of the false assertion, whether the Director discovers the false assertion before or after the date on which a patent has been issued.”; and

(2) in section 123, by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **PENALTY FOR FALSE CERTIFICATIONS.**—In addition to any other penalty available under law, an entity that is found to have falsely made a certification under this section shall be subject to a fine, to be determined by the Director, the amount of which shall be not less than 3 times the amount that the entity failed to pay as a result of the false certification, whether the Director discovers the false certification before or after the date on which a patent has been issued.”.

(c) **LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT.**—Section 10(b) of the Leahy Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 41 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “50 percent” and inserting “60 percent”; and

(2) by striking “75 percent” and inserting “80 percent”.

(d) **STUDY ON FEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall—

(A) complete a study of the fees charged by the Office; and

(B) submit the results of the study required under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **SCOPE OF STUDY.**—The study required under paragraph (1)(A) shall—

(A) assess whether—

(i) fees for small and micro entities are inhibiting the filing of patent applications by those entities;

(ii) fees for examination should approximately match the costs of examination and what incentives are created by using maintenance fees to cover the costs of examination; and

(iii) the results of the assessments performed under clauses (i) and (ii) counsel in favor of changes to the fee structure of the Office, such as—

(I) raising standard application and examination fees;

(II) reducing standard maintenance fees; and

(III) reducing the fees for small and micro entities as a percentage of standard application fees; and

(B) make recommendations for such administrative and legislative action as may be appropriate.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2773), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING MAINTENANCE PROJECTS AT PORTS OF ENTRY

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 526, S. 3903.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3903) to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

SECTION 1. PORT MAINTENANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 411(o) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(o)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) **PORT MAINTENANCE.**—

“(A) **PROCEDURES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Commissioner, in consultation with the Administrator of the General Services Administration—

“(I) shall establish procedures by which U.S. Customs and Border Protection may conduct maintenance and repair projects costing not more than \$300,000 at any Federal Government-

owned port of entry where the Office of Field Operations performs any of the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of subsection (g)(3); and

“(II) is authorized to perform such maintenance and repair projects, subject to the procedures described in clause (ii).

“(ii) **PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.**—The procedures established pursuant to clause (i) shall include—

“(I) a description of the types of projects that may be carried out pursuant to clause (i); and

“(II) the procedures for identifying and addressing any impacts on other tenants of facilities where such projects will be carried out.

“(iii) **PUBLICATION OF PROCEDURES.**—All of the procedures established pursuant to clause (i) shall be published in the Federal Register.

“(iv) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The publication of procedures under clause (iii) shall not impact the authority of the Commissioner to update such procedures, in consultation with the Administrator, as appropriate.

“(B) **LIMITATION.**—The authority under subparagraph (A) shall only be available for maintenance and repair projects involving existing infrastructure, property, and capital at any port of entry described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) **ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS.**—The Commissioner shall annually adjust the amount described in subparagraph (A) by the percentage (if any) by which the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the month of June preceding the date on which such adjustment takes effect exceeds the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the same month of the preceding calendar year.

“(D) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to affect the availability of funding from—

“(i) the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code;

“(ii) the Donation Acceptance Program established under section 482; or

“(iii) any other statutory authority or appropriation for projects described in subparagraph (A).”.

(b) **REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that includes the elements described in paragraph (2).

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of all maintenance projects conducted pursuant to section 411(o)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a) during the prior fiscal year;

(B) the cost of each project referred to in subparagraph (A);

(C) the account that funded each such project, if applicable; and

(D) any budgetary transfers, if applicable, that funded each such project.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 422(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 232(a)) is amended by inserting “section 411(o)(3) of this Act and” after “Administrator under”.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3903), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: H.R. 5481, H.R. 6722, H.R. 6863, H.R. 7903, H.R. 7925, and S. 5016.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MASTER SERGEANT JERRY K. CRUMP VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 5481) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RICHARD A. PITTMAN VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 6722) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LT. COL. LUKE WEATHERS, JR. VA MEDICAL CENTER

A bill (H.R. 6863) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MAJOR GENERAL OLIVER W. DILLARD VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 7903) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SY KAPLAN VA CLINIC

A bill (H.R. 7925) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs commu-

nity-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic" was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COLONEL MARY LOUISE RASMUSON CAMPUS OF THE ALASKA VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM ACT OF 2022

A bill (S. 5016) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Anchorage, Alaska, as the "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System", and for other purposes, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 5016

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Mary Louise (Milligan) Rasmuson was born April 11, 1911, in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

(2) Mary Louise received a Bachelor of Science degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology and a Master of Education degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

(3) Mary Louise was one of the first two women to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

(4) In 1942, Mary Louise joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps as a Private and was in the first graduating class.

(5) Mary Louise worked up the ranks, and in 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Mary Louise as the Fifth Director of the Women's Army Corps and she was reappointed to this position by President John F. Kennedy in 1961.

(6) In 1962, Colonel Rasmuson retired from the Army.

(7) Colonel Rasmuson was recognized for her outstanding service in the Women's Army Corps with the Legion of Merit award with two Oak Leaf Clusters for her work in expanding the roles and duties of women in the Army, as well as her role in integrating Black women in the Women's Army Corps.

(8) Colonel Rasmuson became Director of the Women's Army Corps during tumultuous times and is credited with enhancing the image and recruitment of women into the Women's Army Corps during her years as the Director.

(9) Colonel Rasmuson expanded opportunities for women to serve in assignments previously reserved only for men, starting with the assignments of 12 enlisted women into the First Missile Master Unit at Fort Meade, Maryland.

(10) Colonel Rasmuson was instrumental in enabling women to be promoted above the grade of E-7 into the highest enlisted ranks of the Army, E-8 and E-9.

(11) During her time in the Women's Army Corps, Colonel Rasmuson was the guiding force behind the Army opening up the college enlistment option to women under the self-enhancement programs and witnessed the first female enlisted member attend college under those programs.

(12) The career of Colonel Rasmuson also laid the groundwork for women to be fully

integrated into the United States Army when the Women's Army Corps was disbanded in 1978.

(13) In 1961, Mary Louise married a prominent leader in Alaska, Elmer E. Rasmuson, and she was the first Director of the Women's Army Corps to be married while serving in that position.

(14) After her retirement from military service in 1962, Mary Louise moved to Alaska where she continued her leadership as a veteran in her community in Alaska.

(15) Mary Louise served as First Lady of Anchorage after the devastating magnitude 9.2 earthquake in 1964, after her husband, Elmer, was elected as mayor, serving from 1964 to 1967.

(16) Mary Louise was an advocate of social justice, education, and the arts during her 45 years of work on the Board of the Rasmuson Foundation.

(17) Mary Louise served as the Honorary Chair and was a major founder to renovate the Anchorage Veterans Memorial on the Delaney Parkstrip in downtown Anchorage.

(18) Mary Louise also contributed to the Army Women's Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Museum of the United States Army.

(19) Mary Louise was the Chair of the Anchorage Museum Foundation and helped establish the museum in Anchorage, serving as its Chair for 21 years.

(20) On July 30, 2012, Mary Louise died at her home in Anchorage, at the age of 101, but her legacy of character and leadership will endure as an example to all who serve in the United States military.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF COLONEL MARY LOUISE RASMUSON CAMPUS OF THE ALASKA VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Anchorage, Alaska, shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System.

THE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 471, H.R. 700; Calendar No. 477, H.R. 6614; Calendar No. 518, H.R. 228; and Calendar No. 555, H.R. 3175.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills en bloc be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LAWRENCE M. 'LARRY' WALSH SR. POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 700) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the "Lawrence M. 'Larry' Walsh Sr. Post Office"

was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ROSA LOUISE MCCAULEY PARKS POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 6614) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4744 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NORMA COMNICK POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 228) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2141 Ferry Street in Anderson, California, as the “Norma Comnick Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ROBERT S. MCKEITHEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 3175) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the “Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building” was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 859, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 859) designating December 17, 2022, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 859) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 14 THROUGH NOVEMBER 18, 2022, AS NATIONAL FAMILY SERVICE LEARNING WEEK

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 860, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 860) expressing support for the designation of November 14 through November 18, 2022, as “National Family Service Learning Week”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 860) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 861, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 861) remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 861) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their

use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Hopkins nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HASSAN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

ELIZABETH FRAWLEY BAGLEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 6, 2022:

THE JUDICIARY

FRANCES KAY BEHM, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

KELLEY BRISON HODGE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHRISSIE C. LATIMORE, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

PETER D. LEARY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MCLAIN J. SCHNEIDER, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

LEIGHA SIMONTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID C. DAVIS, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

JUAN EDUARDO SANCHEZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON OF THE SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAIME E. ESPARZA, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROGER B. HANDBERG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ALAMDAR S. HAMDANI, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MARKENZY LAPOINTE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

TERRY J. BURGIN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

GLENN M. MCNEILL, JR., OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.